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THE
VOYAGES
AND
CRUISES
OF

Commodore WALKER,

During the late

(Commodore)

SPANISH and FRENCH WARS.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

D U B L I N :

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THE

ROYAL

AND

CHAMBERS

OF

ST. MARTIN'S



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CHAMBERS

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CHAMBERS

INTRODUCTION.

MY intent, as a compiler of the following transactions, is to enter upon the scene of business with as little trouble to the reader as possible, without the form of a preface or apology; and yet, for the sake of information, there is a necessity of saying a few words in the place of both.

The world, more through a tender and compassionate concern for Mr. Walker, than out of mere curiosity, has long made enquiry regarding his sufferings: "How the man, who in his public character ranged the seas, as a hawk does the air, in search of enemies, and generally victorious, should so far sink under the displeasure of those very gentlemen, whom he mostly endeavoured to serve, as to be held by them a prisoner for now five years? And how he, who was before possessed of a very ample fortune, should become a debtor, by the many valuable prizes which he had taken?" To this we will say, that a deficiency indeed arose in his fortune, by his having advanced too freely several large sums to his officers and the men abroad, which were disputed in his accounts at home, to a difference of near five thousand pounds. And, supposing him indebted to them, the world with greater astonishment asks the question, "Why they still detain him, when, by such imprisonment, he, becoming a bankrupt, had given up his *all* to his creditors, who had any claim upon him?" But, to give the best answer in my power, I have often heard Mr. Walker lament how unhappily those very gentlemen were imposed upon, in a bad belief of him, by some evil men, who, to screen their own wicked acts from justice, and to get into favour of those

gentlemen they had abused, falsely represented his intent only of prosecuting his right at law as an avowed resolution of becoming their enemy, and under that advantage charged him as the author or confederate of their own base attempts against them.

As I had the honour, for such I shall ever deem it, of having been with him in most of the cruises he made, and engagements in which he commanded, during the late wars, I have often, in the time of his confinement, asked him to give me leave to publish an account of his conduct as a commander at sea, to shew the world that no part of that conduct could with any propriety be used as a reason for his being so long confined; urging the circumstance of such confinement as a sufficient reason for the publication; but I have been more than once checked in my purpose with these words, *Have patience, my friend, the public do not yet make my case their concern.*

But the house of commons having, under their consideration, the state of bankrupts, lately taken his case into examination, and as, from their general regard to mankind, the public have reason to expect that such examination of his particular, though not singular, case, will produce a law for the relief of all persons from the power of the resentment of their creditors, (who, as the laws now stand, are the only people in the state who have power of doing an injury to their fellow subjects, without being accountable for the same,) the general curiosity has been raised to enquire more particularly into circumstances relating to him, and into the cause of his confinement, I therefore apprehended it a fit season for renewing my former applications.

For though, whilst his case still lies submitted to that august body till some determination be agreed on, for the assistance of all persons in the like circumstances, we would not be thought to appeal from that submission, the following sheets being only a detail of his actions at sea, to set his conduct in the first place clear as a sea officer, yet the methods used by some of his enemies to misrepresent him to the world

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world oblige his friends to dissipate such false representations, endeavoured to be drawn over as a cloud against the truth of his actions, lest a prejudice at this time taking place against him might be of destructive consequence. We say not this from a mistrust, that any one of Mr. Walker's friends in particular has been singly set upon to withdraw his regard from him; but as an offer to enter the lists, whenever an attack shall be made upon the whole in general; and, to ward off any strokes of art in the combat, a few of his particular friends have thought proper to advise this defence, or *Narrative of Facts*, which, like the engravings on *Æneas'* shield, may represent such truths as check the force of his competitors.

On these arguments of his friends I at length gained the permission so long solicited; but after having delivered the copy to him for his perusal, I must own, I received it back from his hands much dissatisfied at the severity of his correction, he having run his pen through very near one-third of it. At which I am not so much disobliged, by the shortening of the performance, as at the loss of real truths, which would have illustrated the chief personage of my work. And though this account may speak to the modesty of the gentleman himself, yet it is so far paradoxical, that it takes greatly from his merit. However, as I would not oblige the world in this particular at his pain, I took his permission on the best footing I could get it; and have only repaired the breaks, with some few additions, where, by the chasms made, a new splicing of the thread was necessary to carry on the line in a regular introduction of circumstances. And will only say of him herein, as Mr. Waller does of good writers,

Poets lose half the praise they would have got,
Was it but known what they discreetly blot.

As the various accidents arising in such a course of action, and the successes attending his conduct, were

at all times beheld and noted down by me as matters, which, besides the natural entertainment they might have given in the relation, were worthy of my own attentive review of them, as an improvement to myself; I therefore not only made a commentary of all proceedings as they arose, where I was present, but have since, to compleat my history, carefully gathered every particular of those actions, from which I was absent, in the repeated and compared reports of those officers and others, who acted under him therein; for as to his own relation of them, though I never once had the least denial of his friendship, I am less obliged to him than to any one man living.

Tho' the account of the cruises, distinguished as being under the managers of the Royal Family private ships of war, be that which principally concerns the consideration in view, as they constitute the reasons for his present imprisonment; yet, as the former cruises were introductory of these, I beg leave to give some account of the whole, chiefly to range facts in their proper places, which by common report have been crowded into the actions of one cruise, when they belonged to another. And, for the more agreeable reading, I have for the most part dropped the journal and sea phraseology, to throw the matter into a less circumstantial and more easy relation.

In entertainment of myself, I have also ventured sometimes to deviate from the common tract of the subject, by pursuing various concurring incidents, as they intervened, which, tho' they may be thought by some severe readers to be running out of the way too near the borders of romance, I am persuaded will be pleasing to many, and pardoned by all; as we shall never lose sight of the main road, or err from truth. For, in offering this story to the world, I look upon myself as giving an invitation to a various company; and shall endeavour to spread the table: but, lest any thing should be disliked, as foreign or out of season, every such plate shall have a marked cover to it, that they, who please, may pass it over.

Mr.

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Mr. Walker, from his own generosity, has frequently made another objection to the present publication, that of his friends being put to the expence of reading any relation concerning him. Did my fortune, like his spirit, set me above the common fashion of letting our friends, whom we invite, pay for any part of the entertainment, I should then have had the pleasure of asking his friends at my sole expence. But, as the case stands, they must look on the invitation like our usual turtle-feasts, where the owner gives the treat, and the company pay for their wine.



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COMMODORE WALKER'S

VOYAGES.

CHAP. I.

Mr. Walker, being part owner of the ship Duke William, takes out letters of marque for her; escapes a Spanish privateer; enters with his ship into the government's service at Carolina; and protects the trade of that province.

WE are now beginning with the detail of several actions, wherein Mr. Walker, as a commander, always prevailed, to the intire satisfaction of his employers, and of the officers and people under him. We would not, however, have it imagined, that he undertook and executed such command undisciplined in the art of war; such successes could not in the nature of things be expected; but from an attained knowledge and approved experience of the powers of that art. He was not, it is true, brought up in the navy of England; a circumstance so far a disadvantage to him as more than once to have frustrated the intentions of some gentlemen, his friends, who wished to see his talents exerted in that high sphere of honour—but he was early and regularly educated in the navy of Holland; and had been in some engagements under various commanders in the Dutch service against the Turks. An universal peace becalming the European seas, he turned his talents to the attaining a fortune in the nearest branch of business to that in which he was educated, namely, that of trading, in his own ships, wherein he always commanded. To this circumstance

cumstance we may greatly ascribe that calmness of temper, and presence of mind, so prevalent in him on all occasions; as he learned the art of command and oeconomy together, at the constant risque of his own property.

In this station we will take him up in the year 1739-40 commander and a considerable owner of the ship *Duke William*, bound from London to Gibraltar, and from thence to South-Carolina. The war being now declared, and Mr. Walker chusing to reap what advantages thereof might accrue in the aforesaid passage, determined to put himself in the best posture of defence, and took our letters of marque for the said ship, not with an intent to cruise as a privateer, but to proceed with her on a trading voyage. Accordingly he fitted her out with twenty guns; but did not incumber his trade with a greater expence than that of taking thirty-two men, his business being only to secure his voyage: for which purpose he also took with him a parcel of marine cloaths and other things, to make a shew of men answerable to the force of his ship, in case of meeting with an enemy. He had the good fortune to succeed in this device a few days after he set sail. In his passage from London to Gibraltar, off Cape-Finisterre, at break of day, we fell in with a Spanish privateer of twenty-four guns; and seeing her a ship of force, and full of men, Mr. Walker immediately ordered our marines on deck, who wanted no breast-work between them and the enemy, either to conceal their number, or in reality to save them from their fire. Thus setting up all the hand-spikes and other provided utensils, and dressing them in the marine cloaths, and also exercising the boatswain's call in the highest notes, as is usual in king's ships, we made all apparent and indeed real preparations of engaging; our fictitious soldiery not being in our way, in case of an engagement, and serving at first to intimidate the enemy. Upon one of our officers saying with some humour, if we came too near with our scheme, the enemy might be too well pleased in understanding the joke, Mr. Walker

Walker made answer, "Do you but fire well your guns, and the smoke will befriend you; especially if we have an enemy of spirit, who will fire theirs: if not, the wooden men will take them off themselves." However at the droll appearance of this equipment, Mr. Walker could not help often breaking off, in the midst of his orders, into fits of laughter: which were as heartily seconded by the whole crew. This very much took off the sense of the great danger we were in, and so spirited the men, that, as we were well gunned, we had certainly not fallen an easy prey to the Spaniard in case of his engaging us; for never sure so small a number of men expected the attack of a superior enemy with less concern; or more in wit and spirits. All things, nevertheless, being well ordered and prepared for the worst event, it being our place to appear the challengers, Mr. Walker lay by for the enemy, they being to windward; and ordered a gun of defiance to be fired, athwart their forefoot, by way of offering them battle. This the Spaniard did not return, nor yet did he seem resolved to decline the contest; but still kept us company for two days; we pursuing our way, and he hovering on us in the wind: at last he disappeared, assuredly mistaking us for a greater force than we were.

When we arrived at South-Carolina, Mr. Walker was disappointed by the cargo's not being ready, which he expected. Whereupon he went to North-Carolina; and there being informed, that their coasts had been infested by two Spanish privateers, which had greatly obstructed and injured their trade, and that they were at present unprotected by any of his Majesty's fleet, he offered his ship for the government's service, to act in the defence of their coasts, and for the protection of their trade. His proposals being gladly accepted, terms were agreed on, the men put all at wages as in the king's ships, and his complement made up to an hundred and thirty. Mr. Walker, tho' commander, entered himself a volunteer; an example so well approved, that several gentlemen of the country entered on board as volunteers also.

In-

In July we set out on a four-months cruise, to extend as far southwards as St. Augustin, the next port to Georgia; and northwards, as far as the Cape of Virginia. We soon restored the trade of the country to its former quiet, having, in a short time, intirely cleared the coasts of privateers; the two Spanish ships above-mentioned having quitted their cruise, as we suppose, upon receiving some intelligence of our fitting out. We could fall in with nothing which would stay for us upon the seas; and in this whole cruise only retook the Neptune, captain Darby, who had been taken by the above privateers. Mr. Walker finding the Spaniards had their place of rendezvous at Okrekoke, an island upon the coast of North-Carolina, which they took possession of by claim of arms, and had there erected a fort of six guns, we went ashore, and demolished the battery and fortifications; so that the Spaniards never returned during our stay on that station, which intirely broke their plan of privateering in those seas.

With this success only the cruise ended; by which time a king's ship was sent to take station on the coast. Upon our return, governor Gabriel Johnston, and the whole assembly of the place, had an occasional meeting, in which public thanks, in the name of the governor and assembly, were ordered to be returned to Mr. Walker for his great services in the protection of their trade; and indeed every mark of respect, both outward and private, were shewn him by the gentlemen of the country, who often made offer to him of writing home to the lords of the admiralty, and asking in a collective body a king's ship for him; a favour which he declined, as he knew that, by the rules of the navy, a man must have served in it two years before he can obtain a command. Their friendship then would have secured his stay amongst them, by a further offer of a large tract of land, which they had power of presenting him by a complimentary use of their law in his favour. As a man is there intitled to fifty acres of land for every servant whom he brings with him, under his command, to settle in the country;

try; so they absolutely offered him six thousand five hundred acres as an inducement to him to settle among them, rating each man, under his command in the ship as a servant at the time, intitling him to the usual claim. This indulgence also was then refused, as incompatible with his other pursuits of life. That posterity will in a few years wonder at this and the like refusals may be easily foreseen; when an estate of like extent may be of such significancy in esteem, as to dignify its possessor with respected honours, in perhaps one of the finest countries of the world.

As generosity founded on gratitude is one of the most distinguishing virtues, I could not be less particular in shewing, that it is a plant which already flourishes in our infant colonies.

C H A P. II.

The loss of the Duke William at sea, in her passage home from North-Carolina.

THE cruise being over, and the coast otherways defended, our men were reduced to their former number, and Mr. Walker set sail on his trading voyage to Barbadoes. There he lay four months for a cargo; and thence sailed October 31, 1742, in company with the captains Staples, Chambers and Burrowes, who put themselves under our convoy. The first Night after we left Barbadoes, captain Burrowes lost company; but the captains Staples and Chambers continued with us, till the 12th of December, and then they also were parted from us in a storm. In this hurricane, which was very violent, we sprung one of our butts or planks of the ship. Being then two hundred leagues to the westward of Scilly, and the ship making a great deal of water, we soon became in great distress, both our pumps going night and day. What added much to our affliction was Mr. Walker's ill state of health, who had not been out of his bed for three weeks before, on account of the bloody flux; and was thereby reduced to such a lowness

lowness of spirits as to be scarce able to give any direction, our surgeon having given over all hopes of his life. Our officers and men were at first for throwing the boat and all the guns over board, in order to ease the ship: this expedient was executed, reserving two of the guns, kept by Mr. Walker's order to make signals, and the boat, which he insisted they should not part with. In other particulars the scheme was fulfilled. The storm continuing, the leak daily increased from the fourteenth to the seventeenth, and our men being quite fatigued, and not able to stand to the pumps, despairing of all succour, (for it was not in our utmost power to keep the ship above water twelve hours longer, she having, notwithstanding our incessant labour, eight feet of water in her hold), some of the officers and crew agreed to take to the boat, as the last refuge for their lives, thinking themselves happy in having it preserved for them to this end. Mr. Walker, who, notwithstanding his illness, insisted on being regularly informed of every circumstance of the ship, now ordered himself to be taken out of his bed, and carried upon deck. He there represented to them the impossibility of the boat's being able to hold above one half of the people; and demonstrated that in all probability she must be devoured by the waves, the sea still running mountains high. He therefore assured them, "Their only hopes must be that providence would send some sail to their assistance; and the longer they kept the ship from sinking, the greater was the probability of their being preserved: that even if a sail did appear, the most they could expect from their boat would be to transport them, from one ship to the other." This argument with grief finding way to their conviction, they applied themselves with double diligence to the pumps: but no relief appearing, and the men being again intirely spent, the argument on the other side seemed to prevail, of taking to our boat, as the only, tho' sad, expedient for the instant to fly to; the people saying, "that if half might be spared, better that half should be saved than all should perish."

Nay

Nay some, who were over-fatigued with labour, or judged there was as little chance of safety in the boat as in the ship, declared, " They would not press to the boat, as they would as soon sink in the one as in the other." During the time in which we were fixing the tackle aloft, for hoisting out the boat, being about two o'clock in the afternoon, we spied a sail off the weather-quarter. Every man was now again alive, and for living as long as another. Mr. Walker, who still continued upon deck, with uncommon spirits, rather gaining strength than sinking, as was expected under his illness, ordered all the signals of distress to be made, by hoisting a flag upside down, at the top-mast-head, and firing our guns. The ship, perceiving our signals, drew near to us; and how anxious, yet pleasing, were the moments of seeing our deliverance come more and more in view! But, at length, she discovering us a ship of war, and apprehensive of an intent in us to decoy her, all at once hauled her wind, and got from us as fast as she could. Night now coming on, and the storm continuing, our distress was again renewed with double feelings, if possible, of our misery. A ghastly silence for some minutes prevailed, each man beholding the surprize and sorrow in the countenance of his disappointed brother; when Mr. Walker gave orders for the mizen mast to be immediately cut by the board. They, who first received his orders, not readily seeing its intent, made some scruple in executing it: at last, the thought like a flash of lightning breaking upon the minds of the whole ship, it was in an instant down. This the other ship at a distance observing, their attention being again drawn to us by a second firing of our guns, and being thereby convinced of the reality of our distress, she directly bore down to our assistance. But how greatly did the surprize heighten the joy of our approaching deliverance, when Mr. Walker, having his glass in his hand, cried out, " Good God! 'tis my worthy friend captain Burrowes," for there was a particular love and friendship subsisting between them. This was the same gentleman who had
lost

lost company of us the first night after we left Barbadoes; and whom since then we had never seen till this critical moment of our fate. Having been chased the evening before, by a Spanish privateer, he altered his course in the night to get rid of her; and was thus providentially set right in the road to our deliverance and his own.

Captain Burrowes, on the true discovery of us, was as ready on his side to do us every eager act of friendship: but had no boat proper to send to our help, his largest having been washed over board some days before in the storm, and the other, which was left, being too small to live in the present sea; so that we were solely to trust to our own; and had she not been providentially at first preserved to us by the authority of Mr. Walker, or been afterwards taken away by any of the officers and crew, as was endeavoured, all or the part that remained must now have perished in the very sight of our friends, unprovided to relieve us. The boat being obliged to go twice with our people, as the days were short, and so little residue of light left, the sea running still very high, it was with the utmost difficulty we all got on board; which, however, we did under the great will of providence, without the loss of one man. The expressions of thanks to that providence, and of joy in meeting our countrymen and friends, as ordained to be the means of this deliverance, were not long abated, before the moon rising, as it were, on purpose to light us to the prospect, we saw with a renewal of some melancholy our ship go down: which was in less than two hours from our quitting her, we being then about one hundred and seventy leagues westward of Scilly, December the seventeenth. However, we were soon cheered in the reflection of our own escape; and Mr. Walker's surprizing recovery added to the present satisfaction of that safety. From the moment he was lifted from his bed, he every hour after increased in health and strength: owing in all probability to the sudden exertion of his spirits and turn of blood on the occasion.

But

But the visible designs of providence to us all, at this juncture, were not over. Mr. Burrowes's ship also in the same storm had sprung a small leak, which next day after our joining him visibly encreased; and in two days after, by the time our men had somewhat recovered the use of their limbs, was so great as to give employment to all hands: so that if a less number had been on board, she must inevitably have gone to the bottom. As it was, we did a second time but just escape; the same preserving hand, which directed her to our deliverance, in the same act designing her relief by the additional number of our men.

In this condition we in five days after made Scilly, being the first land; and got in safe, to stop her leak: for which purpose we were obliged to lay there eight days. We then came round the land, and January the first, 1742-3, arrived at Dover: from whence Mr. Walker took chaise, and went to London. Here a new misfortune happened to him: for the insurance that had been regularly carried on for his concern in the said ship, which was very considerable, was by some mistake neglected to be renewed but two months before his arrival. Thus, we may say, he at land a second time lost his said ship, and all his property in her.

The journals having been lost with the ship, we could not be so particular in the relation of some circumstances, especially as to time, as might otherwise be expected from us. The like excuse we must also make in regard to the next following cruise but one; as the very same reason, tho' not with the like misfortune, subsists also there.

C H A P. III.

Voyage in the Russia Merchant, to Gottenburgh and Cronstadt, near Petersburg. Three remarkable executions there.

AS there is a year's chasm, between the loss of the Duke William and Mr. Walker's taking on

on him the command of another ship of war, in which time he was not idle, we will just give an account how he employed the year, till the breaking out of the French war: lest other people may be taught to believe, that some mismanagement, which we wanted to hide, was the cause of our leaving out any part of his life, during the war. In this space some occurrences happened, new in their nature, which we will venture to give to the reader, in excuse for taking up his time in noting the transactions of the year.

After the loss of the said ship, Mr. Walker's former joint owners, Mr. Robert Mackey, (a gentleman, to whom Mr. Walker is under the greatest obligations, as a friend to him even at this day) and Mr. William Vigor, joined him in the purchase of a very fine snow, about one hundred and thirty tons, called the *Russia Merchant*, to be employed in the Petersburg or Baltic trade; in which she made three trips within the year. The first was from London, in March 1743, to Gottenburgh in Sweden, and back again in June following: but this produced no incident worth recounting.

On the twenty-eighth of the same month he sailed upon his second voyage to Petersburg; and in the following month arrived at that city. During his stay in the country, he was spectator of a very remarkable execution, viz. of several noblemen and ladies of the first rank and quality: who were sentenced to be broke on the wheel, for a conspiracy against the present empress Elizabeth. These very persons were the instruments, but the year before, of bringing her, as the daughter of the late Peter the Great, to the throne, by the best-laid plan that ever produced so great a revolution of government; and this without one drop of blood being spilt on the occasion. But she taking, as they thought, other and new favourites to be more near her person, as assistants to her in the direction of affairs of state, these unhappy persons associated in a conspiracy of poisoning her; in which the French ambassador, Chetardie, was said to have been the actuating instigator, though he turned

turned traitor to his confederates, the evening before the intended treason. This affair was afterwards more fully disclosed by our English Lord Tyrawly, who was sent plenipotentiary to that court. This nobleman, by getting at the Frenchman's papers, and other detections, set him forth to the empress in his true light; and had him sent home in the utmost disgrace: the empress only allowing him a scanty time, even to take refreshment, thro' her dominions. The person who was next to suffer execution was a priest, a man of seeming great address and politeness: he was said to be one of the highest sense and understanding. His crime was that of introducing a kind of schism in their church, which is of the Greek persuasion, differing little from the Roman catholic faith, except in the two points of transubstantiation, and supremacy of papal authority. The new method he substituted was in the manner of crossing themselves, the usual way being with the two first fingers and thumb, representing the trinity; whereas he taught the crossing with one only, representing the all-sufficiency of one God; which was understood by his brother-priests as a lessening the other two persons of the hypostatical union. The third was a merchant or commissioner, who, having been trusted by the government, as agent in some department, had been found guilty of embezzling the public money; this being held among them a crime of the highest nature. At the place of execution, as is usual, they beat a drum to demand silence; and then each person's crimes were proclaimed to the populace. After this ceremony was performed, and whilst the directors and state-criminals were preparing, the one to perform, and the other to suffer the sentence passed, the empress's special pardon came down, excusing the severity of death, but in its place ordering the punishment of knouting, their tongues to be cut out, and their persons banished to Siberia. The knouting is a kind of whipping with an instrument like a single-handed flail; with which the operating proficient can, in two or three strokes at the most, cut the patient to death,

death, when the sentence so directs. But here the seeming rigour of the orders was even greatly lessened in the performance, the stripes being laid on their naked backs more out of ignominy than punishment; and the ceremony of cutting out their tongues being got over by a small part taken off, so as to be more an inconvenience at the time than hindrance to their speaking; except as to one lady, who made some great struggles in defence of that member: so that the executioner was obliged to exert a little violence, and in using his opportunity, took off a larger share than perhaps he intended; or she, by her indignation at him when done, seemed willing to part with. They were all immediately put together in vehicles, without regard to sex or distinction, and sent out of the city, on their banishment.

As the priest's offence was against the church only, he had no advocates there to speak for mercy. He bore his sentence, which was beheading, with an undaunted intrepidity, from his first advancing on the scaffold to his last resignation, affecting, and indeed rivalling, the character of a martyr; so that it is more than probable, as he had many proselytes, he obtained his design by making some new disciples among the multitude to preach his doctrine after him.

The last business was of all the most moving, that of the agent to the government; to whom all hopes of a reprieve were cut off: defrauding of the government being there equal to clipping of coin amongst us. He did not discover any want of the powers of a man, to bear him up thro' this last trial: but the affecting scene arose in the interview of taking leave between him and his wife: for she attended him even to this tragic stage. She was, beyond representing it, the living picture of sorrow; and her whole address was very tender. When sinking down from him under the heart-breaking pain of the last embrace, she felt an end of all; for she first met the stroke of death; never more recovering from her swoon. His sudden agonies on the occasion were very striking, and a more heightened tragedy than imitation ever represented.

fented on fiction's stage. He hastened to his death, and we to close the scene.

C H A P. IV.

Voyage to Copenhagen ; the public entrance of the princess Louisa ; an account of an English prisoner there ; a melancholy accident on the ice ; and Mr. Walker's return to London.

MR. Walker, having returned from Petersburg to London in October, again set sail on his third voyage, and arrived at Copenhagen in the middle of November following. As he was here made prisoner by the season, his ship being froze up, we will also detain the reader for awhile in the amusements that intervened. The weather here, notwithstanding the strength of the frost, is extremely clear and pleasant ; nor is the cold at all disagreeably sharp, rather enlivening the spirits than giving any shuddering checks of inaction to the body. But it was remarkably serene and temperate, as if nature joined in the universal joy, when the princess Louisa made her public entrance on her marriage with the prince of Denmark, the present king ; which, for so great respect shewn an English princess, cannot help being mentioned by an English spectator of it. She appeared drest in her marriage robes in an open chariot, or rather a triumphal car, designed on purpose in the richest taste of grandeur and ornamented, and drawn by six white horses in very superb trappings. The prince's sister sat with her in the chariot, and the prince himself rode before them on horseback, so rich in dress and his number of foot attendants, as to perplex the view where to fix on the chief object of its admiration. Not an horse in the great streets, thro' which they passed, but was covered with hangings of tapestry, or whole pieces of velvet, tacked on the columns or piers, richly or fancifully bordered with other ornaments of pictures, or carvings with occasional designs above and under the windows ;
and

and at the end of each of the streets were triumphal arches erected of various and beautiful architecture, with decorations of paintings, gildings, and flowers: in all of which were placed, the arms of England and Denmark joined, and soft musick of flutes or hautboys to play as the procession passed below. This, with the number of led and attending equipages, most of which were intirely new, and grand, with the army, and various bands of martial instruments, great officers and ensigns of state, was a sight of splendor and magnificence, that fully satisfied the eager sense of expectation. The first coach of the officers who preceded reached the palace at eleven o'clock; and the last of the nobility's, who all followed according to their rank and dignity, did not get up till past nine: so long was the procession, and so numerous the attendants. The jubilee, as we may call it, held for a full week. In which time all public diversions were afloat, and at every noble's private table a public entertainment, while several fountains before their doors flowed for the populace with wine. Every day the guns were discharged quite round the town; which, as the city is walled round, and of a regular figure, with their successive firings, circulated on the ear in a pleasing exactness. Every night were constant illuminations throughout the whole city; and the ships in the harbour were also the whole time lighted out with the greatest fancy, and from their reflected lustre outvied the land. In short, the whole, from the highest noble to the lowest plebeian, was an elegant and polite expression of mutual congratulation and public joy.

A very remarkable person was then at Copenhagen, who had been kept a prisoner in an iron cage. Mr. Walker went to see him: he was a gentleman of Lancashire, esteemed a man of profound policy. He had been employed by Charles XII. king of Sweden, and particularly trusted by that monarch in acts of bold enterprize. His alledged crime against Denmark was said to have been an intent to steal away the prince, when a boy, as he rode along the coast, and

to have carried him an hostage to Sweden, which was then at variance with Denmark. But his real design, which he confessed, was to have raised an insurrection in favour of his royal master, to forward his designs of an invasion upon England. Being detected in his attempt, he was, under the forementioned pretensions, imprisoned by the state. He afterwards had made his escape, and got to Hamburgh, where he boasted, that all Denmark had not a cage able to hold him. But with all his cunning, being seduced by some of his acquaintance, who betrayed him, to walk out of one of the towns, near to which some territories of the Danes belonged, he was, insensibly to himself, led on Danish ground, and there arrested, and brought back to Denmark; which was the reason of his having been so caged. He had been in his cage upwards of eleven years, but at this time was let out into a large room. He had wrote several volumes of anecdotes and annals: but, as he was a great bigot to party, none of his performances have been allowed to trouble mankind. During his long confinement, which had then lasted upwards of thirty years, he never had one hour's illness; and had let his beard grow to a venerable length, reaching to the middle of his thighs. As a memorandum of himself, he would sometimes give to a person he liked a single hair of it, by way of a present: and it was really no little curiosity, being quite of a silver whiteness. Among the various amusements, which enabled him to pass his time alone, he dwelt with great fondness on the history of a mouse; which grew so familiar with him in his cage, as to come regularly to be fed by him, or attend him at his call, and divert him for hours in play, as he lay down to it. At length, growing sick with age, it stayed by him till it died, and expired in his beard, where he had wrapped it up for warmth. He had it buried under his cage, being a ground floor, and wrote a treatise on it; shewing the sagacity of animals, and their desire of intimacy with man.

As

As a parallel case I have been told or read a story of a man, who was kept a prisoner in a Turkish government for many years: when the Bascha of the place often taking occasion of asking the officers, how the man diverted himself in his lonely hours? was at last informed by one of them, that he had taken notice of his diverting himself, several hours together in a day, with a spider; which frequently descended to him from over his head, to be fed and played with; which, when touched below, ran himself up by his thread; and so again came down, as pleased with the diversion. The prince ordered the officer to plant him so as to behold the scene. "O Sir, says the officer, I immediately, upon being convinced of the amusement, went in upon them, and killed the spider." "Did you so?" says the prince. Then he shall be more reasonably diverted, and you go in his place; and, I hope, find the happiness of making such an acquaintance:" so he released the prisoner, and put the giddy, if not cruel, officer in his room.

He mentioned several secret actions of past time, as facts of his own knowledge; which would be worth notice, could we introduce them in place. But the more surprizing historian was a gentleman, a native of Norway, Baron-Holberg, then one hundred and twenty-three years of age, in a public office of the king's revenue at Copenhagen, having all his senses and faculties perfect as in youth, except his hearing. The king had his picture in his curiosity-chamber. Mr. Walker was introduced into his company; he was very entertaining in conversation, had been in England the greater part of his youth, and was a spectator of the death of king Charles I. Had some of our modern historians been so fortunate as to have happened on this acquaintance, they had informed themselves better of some circumstances regarding that catastrophe, and have done more justice to the character of that misguided king.

One of the winter amusements in this country, both of the genteel and common people, is the exercise of
sliding

riding on the ice. The genteel people have here, but more frequently in other places of Germany, sledges or vehicles without wheels, richly ornamented and painted, drawn by a single horse, which is generally covered with trappings of embroidered velvet, or other rich furniture. In this kind of chariot they set the lady, whilst the gentleman stands close to her behind, with the reins brought round the sides, and drives. These vehicles run either in the snow upon land, or on the ice; and whole parties of gentlemen and ladies go out together pleasuring in them. A melancholy accident happened among the common sort, who were skating just by Mr. Walker's ship, after their custom, in a string of men and women, holding each other by the hand. In this manner they often make sweeps, or circles, all bearing up together, of great circumference; and sometimes the leader still running in a lesser and lesser circle, till he makes a stand, the rest wind round him, till they become an exact round or circle. Then the last man throwing himself out as leader, they will all again regularly unwind, and go off in various meanderings, very pleasing to be seen, and certainly of great entertainment to themselves; as from the good spirits the exercise puts them into, they always seem very gay and happy. But as mischance will often interrupt diversion, as fools spoil conversation, the foremost scater, in one of these exercises, ridiculously threw himself down all of a sudden, tripping the next scater over him, which threw down the next, and so successively one tumbling in an heap over the other, till the force of their falling all in one spot broke the ice, and down the whole unhappy party went, in the midst of their mirth, to the number of about thirty. This was an accident, of which the like had not been known to have happened before, and was very deplorable in the confusion and lamentations of the by-standers; many of whom had some friend, relation, or child, in the calamity. I hope I shall not be thought by our ladies of England, to give too many examples of good wives from among

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the women of these more northern countries, in just mentioning two instances. One of them, who saw her husband thus swallowed in her presence, ran instantly mad, beating herself upon the ice in vain endeavours of breaking it, in search and relief of him; and, in a continued delirium, expired some time afterwards. Another, who was absent from the accident, in melancholy deliberation put herself to death with her husband's sword, leaving a formal letter to her daughter, who was then about eighteen, with arguments which we must own too refined, "that no good wife can survive the loss of a good husband." The poor girl also died in about a month after, with inexpressible grief, at the loss of her parents: but it was said, she had a further loss, also of a lover in the disastrous crowd.

Left, in the above relation, I may do myself an injury with the younger fair ones, as I profess being a bachelor, in gaining if not the censure, or even anger, yet the ridicule of the good wives of England, I must speak here for myself—which is perhaps the only place where I shall take the freedom in the whole history—that tho' every writer is not obliged to give his sentiments of those facts he relates, yet I will venture in this case at delivering mine. "Those actions, which are the effects of a violence of passion, prove the mind to be too suddenly actuated, and reason too weak to rule. So all that can be inferred from any comparison must be, that, as there is not one instance to the contrary, our English ladies have the advantage over the greater part of their own sex, in having more judgment."—To give them a further proof of it, a misguided reason will run the system of woman into the same errors, where a weak one leaves them. Thus I have been assured by a spectator of the action, that in some of the isles belonging to the East-Indies, at the funerals of their men, whose bodies are always burnt, the poor enthusiastic wife, young and beautiful, has leapt, unobliged to it, into the flames with an eager desire of uniting herself again to the embraces of her lord.

When

When winter's prisoners were all set free, Mr. Walker again set sail, and went to Gottenburgh, April 2d, 1744. At this time news came of the Toulon engagement. The French war being obre-upon immediately declared, and every day's succeeding accounts bringing word of the number of small French privateers in those seas, catching up all our ships thereabouts, (as they had long before lain ready to sail, waiting only for the word) he was under some uneasiness how to get home; for there was no opportunity of convey. He therefore had no course of safety to chase, but in stratagems. He remembered his former scheme of adding a mockery of masts to his ship the Duke William. But then there was really a ship of force. Here he had no more than 4 guns, and nothing that looked military; whereupon, as casting cannon there might be expensive and tedious, he got a most compleat set of wooden guns, finely modelled, which he painted of a true metaline colour, and fixing nettings of tarpolins upon the quarters, set her out in appearance even to a near eye a ship of war, being now rigged like a king's sloop. Under these false colours he sailed out of port on a venture home wards; and off Cromarty met a privateer, who gave chase. He finding her come up, put about on her, hoisted ensign, jack, and pendant, and fired a gun as waiting for her: she then thought proper to make the best of her way to sea. In the run home he met also several small privateers, like birds, scudding about the seas; who all scoured from him at his appearance, as one of greater prey; and he arrived in London the May following.

C H A P. V.

The encounters of the Mars private ship of war; her surrender; her being retaken and brought back to England; and Mr. Walker carried into Brest.

I N the year 1744, some gentlemen in London and Dartmouth, acquaintances of Mr. Walker's, fit-

ted out two private ships of war, the Mars and Boscawen. The command of the Mars was offered to Mr. Walker, being a fine ship of twenty-six guns, and one hundred and thirty men, to sail on a six-months cruise, in conjunction with the Boscawen.

In November, both ships set sail from Dartmouth; and the second day after, fell in with a French ship, a king's frigate, of twenty-six guns, and two hundred and seventy men, from Brest, but a much larger vessel. The Mars immediately began to engage her, unassisted by the Boscawen, she once or twice firing, but at such a distance as not to reach the enemy. The engagement, which became very warm, lasted for a full hour and an half; in which, the French having the wind of us, and keeping at a distance, where they have always the best advantage by the expertness of their engineers, very much shattered our rigging, and wounded our main top-mast. They however having received from our side, as we found afterwards, considerable damage in her hull, set their sails directly for Brest; yet still continued the engagement: we following in a running fight, in which, several broadsides were exchanged, when a breast of each other. At last the enemy getting a-head, left off firing his guns, except only his stern chace; and then intirely run off, being a very prime sailor, and, going much better than we, got clear away into Brest. We then joined our consort, and repaired our rigging. Mr. Walker went on board the Boscawen; and had a private conference with the captain; but was never heard to throw any censure publicly on his behaviour: what was the result of the conference no one knew; but we were soon sensible, that it produced no great effect.

In December following, about twelve o'clock at night, the wind blowing fresh, and thick rainy weather, we fell in with two large French ships, and were close upon them before we perceived them. By being so near we heard the enemy in great confusion, knowing them by their language to be French: and, by the fear they seemed to be under, imagined

imagined them to be rich Martinico men, homeward bound; and so far it happened true, the terror observed arising from a fear for their riches on board. Accordingly, all night we kept close pursuit, and so continued till eight o'clock next morning; when the weather somewhat clearing, we discovered them to be men of war, the one of seventy-four and the other of sixty-four guns. The Boscawen immediately went off; whereas had we stood together, he being the larger ship, it was more than probable from after circumstances, that the enemy would have let us retire unmolested: but seeing the Mars alone, and so inferior a ship to them, a signal was given from the larger ship, for the one of sixty-four guns to chase. We then endeavoured as much as possible, to keep a-head to get away; but the enemy gained upon us. When they came almost within musquet shot, Mr. Walker thus addressed himself to us: "Gentlemen I do not mean to be so rash as to attempt a regular engagement with so superior a force: all I ask of you is, to confide in me and my orders, to get away if possible without striking; and be assured, I shall employ your assistance neither in revenge or vain glory, or longer than I think it of use to our design. The ship which pursues is certainly the best sailer of the enemy, by being ordered to the chase: if by good fortune, we bring down a top-mast or yard, or hurt her rigging, so as to retard her pursuit, we may entirely get clear." He then ordered our colours to be hoisted, and stern guns to be fired. The enemy at the same time hoisted his, and fired his bow-chace; which did us no damage except in our rigging. Thus we continued the fight for upwards of two hours; Mr. Walker having himself placed our best quarter gunners at the stern-chace, with directions for them to aim at the rigging. But though we made several successful shots; yet we had scarcely time allowed to give the stroke we wanted; for though it is a received opinion, that firing the stern guns helps a ship forwards in her sailing; yet if she be obliged to wind, or, as the term is, yaw about,

to bring her guns to take aim; which was our case, it must stop her way for the time, and retard the escape. This was certainly the consequence to us of our strong desire to repeat our fire at the enemy; which made our running just a-head appear to them, rather an artful way of engaging, to avoid their broadsides, than a flying before them; which last, in fact it was; and brought up also the other larger ship, which had still kept after in the pursuit; and, by the above delay, had now so far gained upon us, as almost to hem us in between them. In this situation they both run out their lower tier: whereupon Mr. Walker with a smile, said—"Well, gentlemen, we do not strike to one ship only"—and ordered down the colours.

Though the usual ceremony and greater honour was to have gone aboard the commodore, yet Mr. Walker chose to surrender himself to the ship he fought: therefore taking his proper officers with him, and giving some directions to those who were to follow, he ordered out his barge, and went aboard the sixty-four gun ship, which was the *Florissant*, and the other of seventy-four guns, the *Nephtune*. When he came on board, being conducted to the French commander, a man of seeming rank and figure, he delivered up to him his sword and commission: but the reception on the part of the French officer, to our great wonder, was not answering the politeness expected from the nation in general. The French captain, who spoke English well, asking him in an high tone, "How dare you, Sir, in so small a ship, fire against a force like me?" To which Mr. Walker answered, "Sir, if you'll look at that commission, you will find I had as good a right to fight as you; and if my force had not been so inferior to your's, I had shewn you more civil treatment on board my ship." "How many men have I killed of your's?" says the French officer. "None at all, Sir," replied Mr. Walker. "Then Sir, says he, you have killed six of mine, and wounded several; you fired pieces of glass." Mr. Walker assured him of the contrary: however,

However, his treatment was little altered for the better; but the officers took all opportunities of doing Mr. Walker, and his officers, several acts of civility. Mr. Walker and his lieutenants had indeed the liberty of the quarter-deck; but no accommodation was as yet provided for his bed or table, distinct from the rest. In a few days, the affair of the glass, which had given such offence, was thoroughly set to rights; the mistake having happened from an Irish sailor, who had been fixed at one of the stern guns aboard the Mars. This honest tar, finding the ship under a necessity of striking, humorously took a parcel of shillings out of his pocket—about sixteen—and swearing, “That sooner than the French rascals should plunder him of all he had in the world, he would first send it amongst them, and see what a bribe would do,”—so wrapping it up in a piece of rag, rammed it into his gun, which was the last that was fired. This scattering through the rigging over the heads of the men, occasioned the foregoing supposition, which was thus set to rights, to the satisfaction of the whole ship.

It was on a Friday we went on board the *Florissant*. At break of day, on the Sunday morning following, we saw four sail of large ships astern; which greatly alarmed the French, especially as their gaining ground upon us was every half hour more and more visible. This panic of the French arose, as before, from their concern for the great value of their cargo, bringing home all the French and Spanish treasure from the West-Indies; to the amount of near four millions sterling; besides, their ships were in no order for fighting, coming so long a voyage; and they likewise were very sickly on board. In less than two hours, we could plainly perceive the four ships astern to be English men of war. The French crowded all the sail they could, to get away. Whilst the English were in pursuit of us, the captain of the *Florissant*, who had by this time become more familiar with Mr. Walker, addressed himself to him to this effect: “That if it had not been for

the trouble Mr. Walker had given him, by obliging him to go out of his course, he might be now further on his way, out of the reach of the ships in view; and said, he at the time thought it ill-judged of his commodore to give the signal for chasing, considering his treasure on board;" of which he made no secret. "It is seldom, says he, any great accident happens from single causes, but by a chain or series of things: thus, if we be here overcome, our loss will be owing to the waspishness, as he called it, of a single frigate, which would not cease fighting so long as it had a sting in its tail." This being said, though peevishly, with some pleasantry, and being more compliment than otherwise, was received by us all with equal ease: we had certainly no reason to be out of temper, as the scene of fortune was now clearing up in our favour; for the English drew near. The ships were the Hampton-Court, Dreadnought, Sunderland, and Captain. The French officer on board the Mars judiciously bore away to the leeward, in order to draw off one of the ships in pursuit of him. This had the intended effect; for his majesty's ship the Captain failed off in chase of him, and retook him; but did not afterwards return to the fleet, so our ship the Mars was brought back to England. The Sunderland lost her main top-mast in coming up, by which she fell astern; but the Hampton-Court of seventy guns, and Dreadnought of sixty, a little astern of her, came up along side by sun-set. As an engagement now appeared unavoidable on every side, the captain of the Florissant again, with great politeness, spoke to Mr. Walker and us to quit the quarter-deck, saying, "That he hoped we would excuse the necessity of things: but as an engagement was expected, it was not usual to admit strangers on their decks." Mr. Walker answered, "Sir, I go off with great pleasure on the occasion; as I am now certain of my liberty; and I hope to have the satisfaction of seeing you again in being." We were then all conducted to the Cock-pit, where we discovered the sad situation of the ship indeed; here being

ing above one hundred and ninety of her people
 then lying sick, unable to stir; so that their confu-
 sion was very great. But no engagement beginning
 that evening, Mr. Walker was very soon called up.
 All that night and the next day, the French kept on
 their way, and the Hampton-Court, and Dread-
 nought, closely followed; when the second evening
 coming on, the English altogether disappeared. As
 this affair has been already settled under the sanction
 of a court-martial, we refer to that better examina-
 tion of the cause of such proceedings. During this
 time, the captain of the Florissant every now and
 then sent for one or more of us, to refresh ourselves
 in the air. By which opportunity, the fears and ter-
 rors of the French, unprovided as they were for an
 engagement, could be distinguished at every new ex-
 pectation of the English beginning to engage. But
 when no enemy appeared on the morning of the se-
 cond day, nothing then but boasting of their superior
 courage to the English was to be heard, even from
 the captain himself, to the most inferior in the ship;
 which could not be heard without some little indigna-
 tion on our part, especially of Mr. Walker; who
 was before so sure of his liberty, and underwent a
 very genteel *memorandum* of it from the captain.
 However, as an inward approbation of themselves
 and country, in comparison with others, is very na-
 tural to all people, and more apparent in us than in
 any one country of the earth, we had nothing to
 be really offended at; the French in general behav-
 ing to us with great humanity and politeness, espe-
 cially the captain, who now grew so fond of Mr.
 Walker's company, that he would not dine without
 him, and some one of his officers of Mr. Walker's
 own chusing. He even shared part of the state-
 cabin with him, where he had a bed brought in on
 purpose for his accommodation. With these dou-
 tours our time passed on more easy; and giving up
 all views of any new deliverance, as we were now in
 sight of the French coast, we contented ourselves
 with

with the expectation of seeing Brest, the finest port in France; to which we were bound, and where we arrived in January, 1744.

CHAPTER VI.

Mr. Walker's recovery of his own and officers liberty at Brest; and his return from thence to England.

AS we came into the bay without the harbour of Brest, we met the French Frigate whom we engaged in the Mars coming out from being refitted. He had had his bow-sprit dangerously wounded, so as to be almost carried away, and his starboard quarters stove in; some men killed, but a great many wounded, whom we afterwards went to see in the hospital. He had reported, upon his engaging of us, that, "He had fought two English men of war of fifty guns, and had got clear, one of them having sneered off." This kind of boasting we are sure to smile at, in foreigners; but seldom are so unfavourable to our own national glory to detect it in ourselves. It certainly is a kind of spirit, constituent of the French genius: but as they are a people of great policy, is so far allowable, as they thereby stimulate one another to imitate such acts of valour, however they may be misrepresented.

The next morning Mr. Walker, fearing the distemper, which began to grow violent amongst the French, might be caught by our men, applied to the captain, to have us set on shore immediately, which by his interest with him, he effected by four o'clock in the evening. This was a great favour, it being Sunday. But it was with much greater difficulty, and as good providence, he persuaded his friend the captain, for so I may justly call him, to let him come with us; in which favour to himself he was long denied. What is there, said the captain, (for I was very near him) that I have been deficient in as a gentleman, to render my accommodation not quite

quite agreeable to you? Or what is there I can do to make it more so? Stay but till to-morrow, and I will take you with me to the governor, and introduce you to every man of consequence of the place. You shall be free; nothing shall break in upon your liberty, but the prejudiced notion you have got of it in England." Mr. Walker urging, with many acknowledgments of his favours, that his sole desire of going proceeded from a duty, of which he could not even in opinion divest himself, of seeing his men accommodated; "Well then, says the French captain, you shall not go, till I write two lines by you to the governor:" which giving Mr. Walker, and taking leave with the utmost politeness, we thought it an happiness to gain permission of setting foot on French ground, as prisoners, with our leader at our head. And here I could not help observing the power of self-recommendation, in the change of behaviour of a few days, between the first meeting of those gentlemen and the taking leave, a leave, as it happened, for ever.

Mr. Walker immediately proceeded to the governor of the town, who receiving the letter from the French captain, told him, he was at his liberty on parole, and any one or two of his officers he chose for his companions: but Mr. Walker, who hoped his credentials were more unlimited, making answer, "Sir, if I have not my principal officers with me, I can enjoy but little pleasure in the liberty you bestow me;" he, with almost an obliging condescension, granted permission for his having all his officers, to the number of ten, on Mr. Walker's parole, to go with him, where he pleased, into the town or country; but not by themselves. — I cannot help being particular in these circumstances, both as it was a great happiness we received, and ought with gratitude to mention; and which every Englishman must with pleasure hear; but also, as it may help to remove the bad prejudices we generally entertain of all other countries but our own, which have sometimes prevented our using them, in like circumstances, so well

well as we would do, did we think they deserved to be used as well as they do.

An universal rejoicing was made, and *Te Deum* ordered to be sung throughout the kingdom, on the arrival of these two important ships; which had brought home the year's store of treasure. Amidst the joy, we were also obliged to hear great boastings made among the men, of their having offered battle to four large English men of war, who refused fighting them. But all this joy was too suddenly overcast.

Mr. Walker having procured his own and officers liberty, and visited the common men in their prisons, where he settled the manner of supplying them with necessaries, and got them the best apartments in the place, now brought us all to a public house or inn, to refresh himself and us with supper; where he agreed with the cook at a rate exceeding the king's allowance, for a particular table for himself and us. The cook, who was also master of the house, with great alacrity agreed to provide every accommodation to make us easy; and told us humorously, "he could make de good roat beef for us, and de good plumb-pudding too." And he kept his word; for, to say the truth, there could not be a better table, or more reasonable, than he constantly provided.

The very next day, whilst Mr. Walker was writing at our inn, to the French captain, to beg him to send him his letter of credit, which was in a box with his commission, the people came running into the house, all in terror and lamentation! with cries, that "The *Florissant* had blown up; and all the crew were destroyed with her." Upon our running out, we found the accident too true in fact; tho' not exactly related. The gunner having taken out the powder, and gone ashore with it, had left in a private part of the magazine, four barrels, for salutes, as he said. The men sweeping together the lose powder, which had been scattered from the starting of their cartridges into the casks, and handing down the glass lanthorn, which hung in the gun-room, to the people in the magazine, the handle of it, by some accident, broke, and the lamp

lamp fell out upon the floor, among the loose powder: which taking fire, and communicating itself to the four barrels, blew up the whole after-part of the ship; in which was the aforesaid polite and good captain, with all the officers and most of the men. The fire afterwards catching the other part of the ship, burnt with great fury. This dismal accident we, tho' an enemy, with great sorrow and tender feeling beheld. As the French are very expressive in all their motions—I would not be supposed to mean they are more tender in their passions—the scene was indeed very melancholy. Each one of the croud particularly lamenting some friend or relation lost, at the moment they had prepared their welcome to their homes; and all in general condoling the common loss, and public calamity to their country. The men who were yet on board, in the fore-part of the ship alive, cried out for the assistance of boats, and called for mercy of their countrymen, friends, and relations; which, though it might have been easily afforded, was obliged to be denied by those very friends and kinsmen; the weeping spectators only of their sad distress! For the guns, which had not yet been discharged, every minute or two going off, as the fire reached them, made it dangerous to offer assistance: so that their own guns were presented against the breasts of those they called to their relief. Most of the men threw themselves at last into the sea, some few of whom were saved. The ship having burnt to the water's edge, went down with all her treasure; having unloaded nothing, save part of that burthen which was her greatest pain, and perished in the delivery. Among the many spectators, Mr. Walker appeared to me not the least affected: to see the tear drop at the misfortune of his enemy, the man to whom by chance of war he, but a few days before, became a prisoner, and now lament him as a friend, made me reflect at the hard fate of war, which brings men together with swords directed at each other's breasts, ignorant of the worth which either bosom may contain: whereas, had happier opportunity

opportunity placed them within the knowledge of each other; they had lived like beings of humanity, in tender estimation of their mutual merits.

By a thronged assistance of boats, for the ship was now gone down, several people were saved; some wanting a limb; others worse torn in various parts of the body, who had caught hold of the first floating part of the wreck, which accident had helped them to; fond of preserving life, tho' mutilated of happiness, to be hereafter dragged over the earth in awkwardness and pain! Among the floating dead bodies, the captain's was easily discovered, tho' very much cut and burnt; and brought on shore, where it had every mark of honour and respect paid to its former owner, being laid out in great pomp of funeral state; for the captain had been a man of rank and family.

When we returned to our inn, Mr. Walker found we bore a further part in the general loss. His letter of credit being burnt, he now wanted the means of his own and our maintenance. The good cook indeed, equally civil, offered our support, till Mr. Walker could receive an answer to his letters from England.—But other things were required; which being necessary, the want of them would have rendered our stay in a strange country, without money, very disagreeable. He therefore thought it best to keep up his interest, till his credit could arrive; so in the first place waited on the governor to pay his compliments of condolance on the late fatal accident. The governor received him with his former politeness, at the same time assuring him, he paid such deference to the recommendation of that good officer, so lately and unfortunately gone, that every thing in his power he would do to make him and his whole company happy in their situation. And he was just to his word. The first respect shewn Mr. Walker, in consequence of this, was an invitation to attend as a mourner the funeral of the deceased captain, which was very grand and solemn. This introduced him to the notice of the principal men of the place;

place; most of whom endeavoured to express proofs of their favour, in invitations to their houses, and other acts of civility; which again gave him an interest with many of them, and this again he employed in general to the service of his friends and countrymen: so that several gentlemen and others, whom Mr. Walker had knowledge of in England, were thro' his means, and at his instance and request, set at liberty, to the amount of above sixty persons.

Among the French gentlemen who shewed these indulgences to Mr. Walker, the fiscal, who is the person that settles the cartel, commenced a particular intimacy with him; which gave Mr. Walker the opportunity of asking him, to put his and his officers names in the cartel that was then filling up. This request, tho' with some reluctance, he at last yielded to; whereby Mr. Walker, whose turn for liberty with ours, would not regularly have come round till near a twelve-month, procured the release of himself, his officers, and about sixty of his crew, as well as of some others, particularly one Mr. Coates, captain Harman, and some other English gentlemen who had been passengers or traders.

I cannot help mentioning, that among the prisoners for whom Mr. Walker at first got their liberty on parole, was a peddling Jew, who, by making out a piteous story, introduced himself to his notice and compassion. Mr. Walker had unsuccessfully applied to many merchants there to be supplied with money for bills, who, with all the politeness of the French, yet caution of their own country, refused him, all to the same story, "that credit would be very hard to be found, on account that the secretary to the late parliament in much the like circumstances, had freely found credit for his bills, and that every one of them had since come back protested." Thus giddy men often think their bad actions end at the point where they lose sight of them; but it is not so: the injury they do to those who intend better, runs often too great a length, by the prejudice and taints they leave in the minds of others. This Jew one day took an opportunity of pulling

pulling Mr. Walker by the sleeve, and telling him, "He knew his want of money; but that he had a bar of gold and forty guineas secreted about him, at his service." These were sewed up in the waist-band of his breeches, which was perhaps the only part of his whole garb that had a regular stitch in it, so miserably was he accoutered in rags and patches. Thus was our generous commander, with all his dependants, relieved by the poor beggar, who petitioned his humanity but a few days before; which is a lesson to our doing all the good in general we can, as we do not know whence the reward will be, often from the hand least expected. Whether the bar of gold had force or virtue enough to break those of iron, I will not take on me to speak; all I shall say is, that Mr. Walker, after paying the honest cook his bill, who I dare say was as sincere in his professions of sorrow to part with us, as he was in those of joy at seeing our arrival, delivered us off from our state of nine weeks bondage, like Moses's poor brick-making colony, to the land of liberty; and was he to have set up a new religion, I dare say the poor Jew would have changed his faith.

Our company, which were enlisted under the direction of Mr. Walker, were about seventy, besides those of the cartel, who were upwards of three hundred. Our journey was to Morlaix, and but two guineas amongst our party, which were in Mr. Walker's pocket, reserved for an addition to our accommodation at the half-way-house; Morlaix being about thirty miles from Brest. When we reached Morlaix the next day, the first thing Mr. Walker did was to go see the cartel ship, as there was so great numbers to go in her. She was one of the licenced vessels from Whitehaven with tobacco, the owner of which had contracted to carry three hundred people: but Mr. Walker at first sight refused to go in her himself, or to let any of his people hazard themselves in her bottom, she being very old and unsafe, not above an hundred and twenty tons, unable to hold one half of the number. And as the jail distemper was among the croud of prisoners,

oners, Mr. Walker on that account also was resolved not to risque himself or party in her: but seeing a little pleasure yacht lying on the shore, which had been run away with by some French prisoners, who had made their escape in her from Plymouth, and finding upon inquiry she was to be sold, and being told the owner's name, a merchant of great note in the place, he resolved upon purchasing her. "Alas! Sir, cries captain Harman, do you think of purchasing ships without a guinea in your pocket, as we all know the last went for the last night's supper? Rather, sir, set your invention to work how to get us a dinner." O! says Mr. Walker, the first thing we must do after the purchase is to victual her, and then you may all dine aboard." Sir, replies Mr. Harman, I fear we shall find a necessity for eating before then, as it may be a work of time before you make your purchase. And if you take us from the cartel, we shall all be struck off the king's allowance." "Well then, says Mr. Walker, if you think there is an absolute necessity for my first filling your bellies, let us go look at the signs of the town, and find out the best hearts in the place from the signals at their doors." We had not gone far in search of some visible signs of hospitality, before we discovered the English arms. "There, says he, is the flag of *good entertainment*, gentlemen; will you please to dine with me at our countryman's?" We all crowded into the house, and found the landlord was an Irishman, a circumstance which answered our expectation. "Countryman, says Mr. Walker at the first salute, do you bid me welcome? I am come to dine with you." The landlord well perceiving who we were, and having certainly a respect to the appearance of Mr. Walker, very politely answered, "Sir, I do." "I take you at your word, replied Mr. Walker; for I am very hungry, and tho' no monster came to eat you up, yet have seventy mouths, and we are as naked as to money as any beast of the forest: but to speak in plain terms, what I ask of you is to accommodate us whilst we stay, and take my bills." "Sir, says he, carrying

carrying his politeness still farther, I take your word; yourself and some few I'll endeavour to make happy in my own house, the rest I'll provide for in out-lodgings." I mention these particulars to shew, that if our countrymen, thro' bigotry, prejudice, or accident, settle amongst our enemies, yet they seldom lose their native honesty of heart to their fellow-countrymen; but rather add to that the polite embellishments of out-side address, learned from their neighbours. Dinner being over and a chearful glass to our country, in which our landlord with much sincerity seemed to join us, Mr. Walker took captain Harman, Mr. Coates, and some others of us to the merchant, about the aforesaid purchase. A French gentleman, who was also in the house, and was informed of our intention, offered to go with us to introduce us. The merchant carried the French politeness yet farther than we had already seen it, by insisting to speak to us in English only, which was so bad and broken, as scarce at first to be understood. However, he agreed to take Mr. Walker's bills for the yacht, and after serving us with wine and a collation of sweet meats, "Pray, jantilsmans, says he, can you know very well at Brest one Maister Vaker, what you call his name?" Sir, this is the gentleman, says captain Harman, pointing to Mr. Walker." "O my dear sir, replies the French gentleman, taking Mr. Walker in his arms, me have de letter to pay you and all de good jantilsmans here, your officers, for your liberty; me have also de commission for de letter of credit for you, &c." This interview and account were no doubt very acceptable; so that with all the merchant's broken English, we never understood plain English better. Mr. Walker's owners, Arthur Oldsworth, of Dartmouth, Esq; and others, knowing by the Mars, which was retaken and carried back to England, and which they repurchased, in what part Mr. Walker was, immediately sent letters of credit to their friends at St. Malo's; who sent to this gentleman theirs of an unlimited credit, to be forwarded for Mr. Walker at Brest, with directions

to purchase his and any two of his officers liberty whom he should chuse, and to offer for them prisoners for one. I cannot help here making an observation on the French manners before we take leave of their country, that tho' their complaisance on the first acquaintance appears to be the expression of a first-sighted friendship, for they never suppose ill of a character introduced to them, whereas the Englishman, who is as civil in the end, always withholds his till he is assured you deserve it; yet when they receive any more certain intelligence of the worth of their new acquaintance; they double that civility to a pitch almost inconceivable to those who have not tasted the growth of it, like their fruits, in its own country; for it certainly loses much in the transplanting: so this gentleman, from an easy politeness, which was before very engaging, took on him at once the endearing familiarity of a friend, insisted on our supping, lying, and in short living at his house whilst we staid at Morlaix. And he certainly was in earnest; for though with great difficulty Mr. Walker got off that part of the invitation, which he imagined might be most troublesome to him, that of lying at his house; yet he kept us to supper, and afterwards conducted us to other entertainments, all of which were hospitable and elegant. Perhaps it may be said, the complaisance paid to us was in respect to the letters of his correspondents at St. Malo's, (I did not see them) or a policy to recommend the spirit of his country to our remembrance, and report in our own. If so, it was a politic spirit: but make what excuse you will for politeness, it is in itself so humanely elegant and good, especially to strangers in a foreign country, and extends too, that, like virtue, it is intrinsic in itself, let the motive from whence it comes be what it will. Mr. Walker generously made use of this his new-gotten credit to the general service of his friends. Every gentleman present or left behind at our inn took what particular sum he wanted, the yacht was paid for, other necessary money taken; and thus every

man,

man, with money in his pocket, returned to our king's arms; where the poor Jew was paid his money and the golden wedge, and the generous landlord had ample reward and respect paid him in return, during our stay at Morlaix. The cartel ship set sail in four days, with her numbers packed like bale goods in her hold. Our stay in getting our new vessel fitted up was eight days: but how great was our opinion of French hospitality yet raised, after the former civility of the French merchant, to find it carried even beyond the limits of his own house. The yaul, as soon as ready, was found stored with wines of various kinds and the best sorts, sweetmeats, cakes, fresh provisions, eggs, fowls, hams, &c. more than sufficient for our number and voyage.

Whilst we were taking leave of this generous benefactor, with such expressions of thanks as were the best evidence of our gratitude, he slipped a letter of unlimited credit into Mr. Walker's hands, in case of our being put back into any port in France. We set sail from Morlaix, February 15, 1745. But the vessel having lain some time in the sun, and her seams not having been properly or well caulked, a matter wherein the common workmen's honesty did not equal their betters politeness, we struck over to the island of Guernsey, the wind taking us short and the weather stormy. There, not being willing to spare time for repairing the faults of our yacht, Mr. Walker being at all times more apprehensive of the bottom of his ship than that of his men, he sold her at but one guinea loss. From thence we set sail in an English vessel, and arrived all safe and well at Weymouth, February 28th, and Mr. Walker went by land to Dartmouth, which he reached March the second.

I believe every officer and gentleman paid Mr. Walker's services the thanks they owed him, in the mentioning of his name. I have had the pleasure to hear Mr. Walker say, that every shilling he had advanced on his own credit to the various gentlemen

and

and others at Morlaix, was with honour and due punctuality returned to him.

I must not forget, that at Guernsey we found on the strand the main top-mast of the *Victory*, which was lost, with her mark, and the name *Victory* on it. I mention this, as I have very lately heard it doubted, whether any proofs of her being wrecked had come on shore.

CHAP. VII.

The equipment of the *Boscawen* private ship of war; an attempt made to seduce the men; and the consequences thereof.

MR. Walker's coming to Dartmouth so much sooner than was expected, was an agreeable surprise to his owners; who, having repurchased the *Mars*, were already fitting her out against his arrival for a new cruise with the *Boscawen*; whose captain being accused by his own people of ill conduct in the engagement with the French frigate before mentioned, and now having brought in his ship before the time of her cruise was finished, had altogether so incurred their displeasure, as to be discarded from any further command. Mr. Walker, as he thought the *Mars*, though a fine and stout ship, a slow sailer, now made choice of the *Boscawen*; and the command of the *Mars* was given to Mr. John Bowden, who had been Mr. Walker's first lieutenant. The *Boscawen* had been a French man of war, and the first we took from the enemy in the last war, called the *Medea*, taken by captain *Boscawen*, lately admiral; a prime sailer, of beautiful construction; one hundred and fifteen feet in her keel, and thirty-eight feet in her beam, mounted originally twenty-eight guns, nine pounders, but was altered by Mr. Walker to thirty guns, twelve and nine pounders upon one deck, having on board three hundred and fourteen men.

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While

While she was sitting out, seamen flocked from all quarters to enter on board; but an accident happened here, which I have thought deserves a relation.

Some persons of Exeter, particularly Mr. Coates, brother to the gentleman of the same name whom Mr. Walker had released from the French prison, and brought with him to England, sitting out at the same time two private ships of war, the *Exeter* and *George*, one of their captains, Mr. Tailor, finding what crouds of seamen flocked to Dartmouth, while they were in great want of men at Exeter, thought of a stratagem to bring over some of the *Boscawen* men; which was that of pretending his owners had a transport ship to send off with felons, some of whom he said had escaped from them, and entered on board the *Boscawen*; and so begged leave to search the ship under that colour, to take opportunity of seducing away our men. Mr. Walker immediately gave orders to his commanding officer for liberty to Mr. Tailor of going on board, declaring he meant no protection to such people. The artifice so far succeeded; but his power of bribing not going farther than the opportunity of speaking to two or three of the men, these took some guineas from him, and promised to bring with them a greater number, having stipulated for the promised reward. Among these was one John Cabel, the principal. When Mr. Tailor had taken leave, as not finding any of the felons pretended to be inquired after, John Cabel appointed seventeen of the men, whom he picked out for his purpose, to meet him at a place of rendezvous. The gang being met, Cabel, who was a remarkable punster, and the wit of the crew, addressed his comrades, (the speech I had given me written by himself, nothing altered except some liberties we have taken in the spelling) "Gentlemen, you know my name is Cabel, you'll say a good name for a tailor; well, gentlemen, if you'll trust to this *cabel*, it shall be a *sheer cabel* of profit to you. There has been a *poor taylor* on board our noble captain's ship, endeavouring to take measure of our

loyalty to the noble captain; that is, gentlemen, to *list* us in the service of one Mr. Coates. Now, my boys, to *suit* him in his own cut, suppose we *patch* up a kind of a scheme to be *paid for work* we shall never do, and then *sheer off*. I have got three guineas here, with which we will to-night make merry, and then think upon it to-morrow." This oration was received with an huzza of applause, and every man followed his leader. At the spending the money, when inspired by the goodness of the ale, they devised a scheme to go to Mr. Tailor at Exeter, every hand to take his money, and then bring off most of the men already enlisted with him, to complete the number then still wanted for the Boscawen; "for which we shall again," says the politic Cabel, "be rewarded by our worthy masters at home." The remainder of the money carried them all to Exeter; where having so far put their scheme in execution, as to receive the money for entering, three guineas each man; a countryman of the place, who saw them enter, and heard captain Tailor brag of his artifice, coming to Dartmouth, immediately acquainted Mr. Walker with this circumstance. He calling a muster of his men, and finding the number missing, was justly enraged at the low cunning of Mr. Tailor; and sent off an officer and party of men, with directions, for the present only, to see whether they were his men, and to send an express of it to him; which coming the next morning with a confirmation "that they were," Mr. Walker immediately went post to Exeter, and took his surgeon with him, in case of any accident happening among the men, which might want his assistance. But the renowned Cabel and his men, having from the party sent before, got some intelligence of Mr. Walker's coming, planted themselves to meet him, about a mile from the city; where they stopped the chaise, and gave him three cheers, when Mr. Cabel, stepping foremost, began a speech. "Noble Sir, we hope you do not doubt our honour; we are true, Sir, and that you shall see if you let us alone a little

to

to ourselves; you shall see we will man you out immediately, with all the best men on board the Exeter. Do, Sir, trust to my management. By G—we are men of strict honour, but we love money and a joke, the two best things in the world, next to a whore and fighting.” Mr. Walker seeing some humour and confidence in the fellow’s manner of expression, could not tell what to make of the whole, but ordered them to meet him at the Swan, where he would set up. On his way thither, though under no necessity of being beholden for a man of theirs to fit out his own ship, it being pretty near compleated as to numbers; yet he considered, that as his proprietors were equipping the Mars and Dartmouth, which wanted men, and were in every other respect almost ready for the sea, he would, if possible, bring off what men he could, in order to requite the very ungentle treatment he had received from Mr. Tailor. When he came to his inn, he met there his officers and former gang, who acquainted him that his men were really honest to him, but had been aboard the other ships lying at Topsham, where they had received both money and cloaths; and that they could, if he pleased, bring away most of the whole crew. Before Mr. Walker had well refreshed himself, the seventeen men also came up; but, being met by Mr. Coates’s clerk, a French gentleman, who also had got notice of Mr. Walker’s arrival, at the rendezvous, were very passionately accosted by him, and ordered to get to their ship; as for Mr. Tailor, he never once appeared. “Get you ways, you rascals, says the French clerk; you shall all be taken prisoners in de country here, if you do not go on board to your own quarters in de ship.” By this time Mr. Walker having signified his consent to his officer, and he again giving the men an hint, a single wink had been enough, like a word to the wise, away they, in seeming duty, sped on board.

Mr. Walker seeing this new kind of claim to his men, so audaciously set up even in his presence, could

could not help growing angry, though he for a time permitted it; and upon inquiry, finding the French *petit-commandant* to be clerk to Mr. Coates, he sent a message to Mr. Coates, that he would be glad to speak with him. Mr. Coates immediately desired his company at his house, where he at the first interview expressed great obligations for the favour Mr. Walker had shewn his brother, repeating the circumstance we have already mentioned; but Mr. Walker, who had his breast full of other business to be settled, answered, he had no compliments to pay in return, and would receive none from him; and then set forth his complaints of Mr. Tailor's behaviour. Mr. Coates assured him of his ignorance of the matter, as a business intirely left to the officer they trusted to. "Yes, Sir, replies Mr. Walker, but if your officer has made a wrong step, you and the other owners must abide the consequences." Mr. Coates then offered him his own men back. "No, Sir, says Mr. Walker again, 'tis the affront done my ship, in the seduction of my men, that I am angry at. I'll not have a man returned me through compulsion: but my officer here shall, with your leave, go on board with a single guinea; and as many as will follow that, to drink my health, I will never part with." Leave being given and taken on all sides, the officer was sent on board; but Mr. Walker soon after had information given him, that some of the proprietors, or some acting person under them, had first sent a round of two guineas more to each man of the seventeen; and their own men insisting on the like, they gave them also the same, being in number upwards of an hundred men. This no doubt gave Mr. Walker fresh uneasiness, as he now began to fear for the steadiness of his men. And though he had power of out-bidding any price, yet considering the less a victory costs, the greater it is, he resolved to wait the issue. To be short, Mr. Walker's officer went on board, threw down the guinea; three huzzas were sent round the ship, *to Walker and the Bos-*

carven for ever, and a compleat hundred men, including the seventeen, followed him out of the ship. Mr. Walker getting notice, that all the men were coming ashore, hastened to them, and met them just landed; and instead of conducting them, was himself by them conducted to the place of rendezvous, with a sufficient compliment of huzzas through crouds of spectators, who, all inquisitive of the cause, were soon instructed, so as to form a right judgment of the matter, by the industrious explanations of the victorious Cabel and his crew.

Towards evening, a gentleman of the town, who was some civil officer, and the same French clerk, came to Mr. Walker, and insisted, in the proprietors names, on Mr. Walker's sending back their men; "that on refusal, the army, as there then was a regiment in the town, should be sent for to force him." This language little prevailed on a gentleman whose method it was, as he said, "When he drew his sword, to throw away the scabbard; and that his resolution was to stand by the men, who would do so by him; that all who could fight their way he would carry off, the rest they might keep." He then immediately gave orders, as there was a wood adjacent, that every man should cut down a good sappling, which, as he said, he supposed they could give the army no commission to fire, would be a weapon easier managed than the butt-end of a musket. This order was with great expedition complied with; and some who were Hercules's in zeal, provided themselves with clubs greater than their abilities could wield. Mr. Walker soon got them back again in order into an out-house in the inn to supper; where the guinea was first drank in form, which was the only money they would admit to be spent on them, every man having guineas of his own in his pocket. Here they provided themselves with fiddles and other diversions of the night; at the relation of which I could venture, as an entertainment

tainment again for the reader ; if it did not deviate from the business of the story.

Mr. Walker sat up in the house all night, in case of any disturbance or surprise ; and having in the mean time secured all the hack-horses in the town, next morning, to the number of about seventy, he, after breakfast, about eight o'clock, led off the men regularly by the boatswain's call, and went himself into his post-chaise at the end of the town, where he had ordered it with the horses, the men mounting themselves to the best advantage. They who could get on horseback, and ride off, were happiest, sometimes two got but one horse between them ; and sometimes a third contented for a third share ; and they who could not get any share of his luck laid claim to the tail. But here it was immediately necessary for Mr. Walker, in common humanity to horse-flesh, to give a new order, counter to the preceding one of the evening before, " That each man should throw away his club of defence, and take to him in its place a switch of expedition ; ere certainly they would have knocked down one half of their horses, or broke their bones, ere half their journey had been performed." Which order also, by dismounting many a cavalier, gave a new chance to all parties stowing themselves more regularly upon the decks. Never sure was officer attended with better hearts, and yet so out of character, as Mr. Walker was at this time, by his sailors turned cavalry. All who, except his own party and a few who staid with him, through the desire of their horses or badness of their riding, flew forward in a cloud of dust, like a kind of marine hussars ; so that the post-chaise and four horses, though going at its usual course, after the rate of ten knots an hour, slipped astern. This great expedition, besides the natural love of making use of a fair wind, which is our opinion of jockylhip, as long as the beast has a breath of wind under them, was meant chiefly as a compliment to Mr. Walker, to get dinner ready against his coming to the inn ; at which they intended

to bait, and whither a small party, by order of Cabel, had been dispatched with provisions over night, trusting to the inn for some additions. They of the most elegant taste among them, having laid their heads together to consult the gentility of the table, as it was their good luck to find it market-day, set him down, his lieutenant, surgeon, and the landlady, at the end of the table, in good hospitality to a leg of pork and cabbage at the head, a boiled buttock of beef and carrots at the foot, a boiled leg of mutton and turnips on one side, a roasted shoulder and potatoes on the other, and a pease-pudding in the middle. At the top of the second course was a hind quarter of lamb boiled with spinnage, and three or four loins broiled in chops heaped around it, a sirloin of beef roasted at the bottom; apple-pie on one side, apple-dumplings on the other, and a huge plumb-pudding in the middle. As this was meant a general treat, happy was the Jack, as they would all wait and shew their service, who could give his captain a glass of wine; though the most of them as yet knew him only by the report of their fellows, which is a surer character to them than a certificate from the lords of the admiralty. And as the humour could not be prevented, Mr. Walker entered into it with a spirit that kept up his own character, and yet gained their esteem of his affability. Of which, notwithstanding their own roughness, they are as good judges as any people in the world, and can as well distinguish an exactness of command from severity. But to return to the table: Mr. Walker, after drinking some general toasts, which were constantly attended with three cheers in the place of music, and making them many offers of wine, &c. in return to their hearty invitation, all which through downright liberality of soul were refused, at last thought of a present, of which they accepted as a very necessary one, though yet unthought of, that of a dinner to each of their horses: so ordering half a peck to each horse, the whole company were all at one time

happy

happy in *good entertainment*, according to the sign-post, *for man and horse*.

Among the obligations Mr. Walker owed to his men, I cannot forget one favour asked of them; and which was in their turn strictly observed, to a wonder you will say, and that was, "that no man should get drunk, but come to their proprietors sober." I have dwelled upon these particulars I hope not too long, to shew that an evenness of command will generally guide these kind of men to a strict observance of orders; which happy art of directing has been the great characteristic of the gentleman we speak of; and proved his own and men's deliverance in the course of his command more than once. The time of departing being come, the cavalcade set out anew. Mr. Walker, and some invalids in that part to which nature has appointed the office of giving rest to all other parts of the body, bringing up the rear, the whole corps arrived safe before night, at Dartmouth; without one desertion, without one man's being in liquor, without one accident, except some tumbles over the fore-castle of the horse, or a slip or two off the stern.

We must end this chapter with observing, that ever after this accident, Mr. Cabel had great deference and respect paid him among the crew, for his judgment and sagacity; and he made a good sailor and brave fellow, till like some other great men, he fell at last a real prey to gold. Of which in its place; and thus the *Boscawen* was at once fitted out with a number of picked men for the ensuing cruise: in which, as they were all deserving sharers, so we may say, that each contributed to its success.

C H A P. VIII.

The first cruise of the Boscawen private ship of war; her taking the Martinico fleet; and her return to Bristol.

TH E Boscawen being ready for the sea, Mr. Walker chose not to wait either for the Mars or Dartmouth; and accordingly on April the 19th, 1745, we sailed from Dartmouth, perhaps, the most compleat privateer ever sent from England.

Among the several amendments and alterations, contrived in her by Mr. Walker, for the convenience of engaging, and other matters; I cannot help taking notice of one, which might be of infinite service in general, as particularly instrumental to our success.

This was an intire new construction of our quarters; as they were here raised with elm, in the place of nettings, man high, and small shot proof, with a step below for the marines to mount on and fire, and then stand off again to load. By this means the ship was always ready for an engagement, and could not be surpris'd; whereas the business in other ships of fitting up their hammocks throws the men into an hurry; whilst the time thereby taken up could be better used in other dispositions of affairs, too much hastened over; if not, too often neglected. I have heard an objection made at home to this contrivance; which, least it may be again started, I will answer, "That the large shot may tear the planks to pieces, and the splinters hurt the men worse than the small shot could do." The elm yields to the large balls, which leave an hole so small, the elm swelling back to its place, as scarce afterwards to be believed the passage of the ball, without ever splintering. This Mr. Walker first proved, before he set them up: but I speak from a further knowledge of seeing them experienced.

May the 23d, in the evening, we fell in with the Sheerness private ship of war, Captain Parnell, of
twenty-

twenty-two guns; who kept us company for the night. By break of day the next morning, in latitude forty-six and forty-seven, longitude fourteen and fifty west from the Lizard, we made eight sail of ships, to which we gave chase; and we going much better than the Sheerness, left her so far behind; that she could not so much as come up to us, or be of any assistance during the ensuing action. About nine o'clock the enemy formed a line, and waited our coming up; we then drawing nearer, saw they were all ships of force: and though on our side every thing was prepared for engaging; yet I believe, not a man in the ship thought of coming to one, the Sheerness being quite astern. Mr. Walker then, perhaps, perceiving some suspense among his officers, as waiting his determination; delivered himself to us, nearly in these words: "Gentlemen, I hope you do not think the number of prizes before us too many. Be assured, by their being armed, they have something on board them worth defending: for I take them to be merchantmen with letters of marque, and homeward-bound; without doubt we shall meet with some opposition; in which I have not the least doubt of your courage: but I see we must here conquer also by a master-ship of skill. Be cool; and recollect every man his best senses: for as we shall be pressed on all sides, let every man do his best in engaging the enemy he sees before him; and then one side need not fear or take thought for the other. In a word, gentlemen, if you give me your voices for my leading you on, I pawn my life to you; I will bring you off victorious." Being seconded by a spirit of approbation throughout the whole ship, which could not but elevate his own courage, he then made the proper disposition of his officers, giving them strict orders "that; let them receive what fire they might from the other ships, they should not fire a single gun, till he gave the word." So bore up directly to the larger ship of the enemy; (which, by her throwing out signals to the others, he judged to be the commo-
C. 4. dore);

dore) well knowing that nothing promised him success so much as attacking close.

I forgot to mention, that notwithstanding the shortness of the time since we left England, we had upwards of sixty of our men on the sick list. These, all except three, crawled up upon deck, and though of little service, yet would they at least behold the action.

As we were coming up to the enemy, with all our sails set, the whole number of ships kept firing their stern-chace at us; by which we lost our mizen-top-mast, and had our rigging much shattered. When we came up to the sternmost ship, we received her broadside, and those of the two ships next to her, as we passed them, without returning a single gun; making up to the commodore in the center. And now about eleven o'clock, getting close to him, we began the engagement, pouring our broadside full into him. This was as fully returned, he having a stout ship of twenty-four guns: They then broke their line of battle, and attacked us, two on each side, and one athwart our fore-foot. The sternmost ship of the line, *La Victorie*, which was the smallest, of ten guns, also came under our stern, and poured her broadside into us, by way of raking us; but being injured by our stern guns, she run out of our reach, and struck. Thus was the engagement carried on by five ships only, the two, which were most a-head, going off, and in this situation was continued against us for a full hour, firing our broadsides, from each side at once, upon the two on each quarter, and they theirs as warmly into us; our bow-chace also keeping the one athwart our fore-foot in good play; we also kept a perpetual firing of our small arms. Yet was this engagement, in which several accidents happened to us, chiefly in our rigging, sustained on our part without confusion or any disorder, throughout the whole. Every man went on with his own business, in his own department; and the word of command was observed, with a regularity almost inconceivable, through the disposition first made by
Mr.

Mr. Walker, in fixing every man to his proper station, with distinct orders to each part of the ship. Nor was there one man or officer behaved amiss either in courage or obeying commands; nor indeed did any one seem to excel another in either; the whole appearing rather a business conducted, than an accident of fighting.

In about three quarters of an hour from our first engaging, we perceived the commodore's ship greatly disabled, for we planted our greatest fire against him, all his masts and rigging being entirely carried away; at length his ship having received several shots under water, he fell back from under our cannon, and struck. The engagement was still continued by the rest. In less than ten minutes after striking, the ship went down. Here was a new scene, of persons floating in the sea on various parts of the wreck, which they, who could attain, thought themselves happiest in distress, as fortunate to lay hold of: this a while suspended the fight. We then and then only were in an hurry, to hasten our assistance of the barge: for the boats were intirely shot away: but we were soon convinced it was out of our power, so soon to commence friends; for the four other ships, seeing our ship also so much hurt in her rigging, it being almost torn to pieces, renewed their attack with greater fury: so that we were obliged to return to business; whilst the poor floaters in the sea were otherwise unassisted, except only by the boat of the *La Victoire*; which was immediately hoisted out to them, and took up about twenty six of the people, saved on the loose yards and other pieces of the wreck. This new attack lasted very hot on both sides, for near half an hour, the one making the onset, as the last effort for their liberty; and we knowing if we stood the shock, our victory would be acknowledged complete. At last one of the ships, being totally disabled, struck; and then the rest followed, as fast as they could, one after another; all in shattered plight! each of them having behaved with great courage and equal resolution.

By this time the Sheerneys came up, and seeing the work over, judiciously went in pursuit of the other two ships, who first made sail at the beginnig of the engagement. One of which she took, and brought back; the other got off.

The ships which struck to us, besides the one taken by the Sheerneys, were, as we at first supposed, all home-ward bound Martinico men, each having a letter of marque, and being a ship of force, viz.

		Guns	Men
Duke de Guienne	Captain L'Estourier	18	65
La Victoire	Captain Brulle	10	38
Le Bell Louis	Captain Fromentin	14	43
St. Andrees	Captain Gautier	18	54
L'Abraham	Captain Berthome	14	46
La Jeune Marie	Commodore, sunk	24	84

The enemy had one hundred and thirteen men killed and lost; fifty eight of whom were on board the commodore, and fifty five among the other ships. On our side was but one man killed, and seven wounded; apparently owing to the new construction of our quarters, as spoke of before. However, we and the whole fleet were so disabled that we were obliged to lie to, for forty eight hours, before we could make any sail upon our ship or those of the enemy. And now we had but few or none sick men, they having been roused in the course of the action into health; which proves, what I have before occasionally observed, the great power the spirits have in cures of the body.

Among the people who were saved from the wreck was the commodore himself, and which was very remarkable, an old lady, a person of some distinction, and who was a passenger from Martinico, floating at some distance on a bag of cotton; which had been put up in the nettings, and is supposed to have got loose. When the captains and other French officers were coming on board our ship, it was told Mr. Walker, that the commodore had been taken up from the

the wreck; at which he expressed great joy; and when he came on board, Mr. Walker took him by the hand; and, without waiting for further ceremony, led him into his cabin. Here was a scene opened which required the exercise of his own natural humanity, and the imitation also of the politeness he himself had met with from the French, when in the like situation. Such is the great change of things! the prisoner of yesterday may be master of to-day. And such in general is the happy consequences of generous actions, that tho' the first giver may not always see their effect, yet if we trace them forward, we shall seldom find they die, but return their produce to some other hand. The old lady was now brought into the cabin, in great dishabille of dress. She at once threw herself at Mr. Walker's feet, and wept there in great agonies; fearing she was to be treated as cruelly on board the English ship, as she had been by them in her own: till raised by him, and assured of her present safety, of which she seemed to be more convinced by his countenance and address to her, than by his words; she cries out, "And, O good heavens! Is this bloody conqueror a man of humanity?" In mentioning so particularly the gentleness of the French to us, when in their power, I imagined it might be so far useful and agreeable, as it informed the readers of the manners and policy of another country, in a situation of superiority, to those below them: but I have several reasons to pass over in silence many passages of politeness and generosity, between Mr. Walker and his prisoners: first, as my relating them will be little instruction to my countrymen, who do not suspect any want of humanity among themselves. Secondly, as I do not apprehend my work will be translated into any of the neighbouring languages, it will be no information to strangers. And lastly, I know Mr. Walker is prepared to quarrel with me, whenever I say a word, that seems to throw any compliment on himself. I will say only, that Mr. Walker having given the commodore a new suit of his cloaths, with other necessary equipments, and

and the old lady a silk night gown, some fine linen waistcoats, cambrick nightcaps, &c. in which she appeared a kind of Hermaphrodite in dress, left them for full twenty hours solely in possession of his cabin and state-room, giving them his steward as a servant to produce every thing under his care, needed for their accommodation; he himself was the whole time busied in refitting our rigging and those of the other ships, securing the prisoners, as also in taking care of our wounded men, in which office he always superintended, three of whom afterwards died, and in providing for the sick and wounded of the enemy. Upon his return, Mr. Walker found his prisoners seemingly happy and in spirits; nor did he appear there to have more command than the rest, unless in taking on him a greater direction, to have all things prepared for the whole company in the best manner, having always all the captains and supercargoes at dinner at his table. Thus in a few hours no people could be to all intents in appearance more in good humour than the present company, even to a degree of mirth. Mr. Walker had two French horns and other musick on board, which he was very fond of, but ordered them not to play; as he apprehended any shew of mirth in him might look like an inattention to their misfortunes. But the old gentlewoman, who took great pleasure in going about the ship, and commending among other things particularly the neatness of our men and ship, in comparison to those of the French, seeing them hang up in the steerage, insisted on their accompanying the dinner, as usual; and even joined the flutes with her voice in singing. In which art, we may say, she was a great mistress by nature.

I have often considered the etymology of the French word for unhappiness: they call it, *malheur*, or the evil hour; which denotes their consideration of it in a light of philosophy; and is an over-conforming to the Christian-doctrine, as they herein imply; "that sufficient unto the hour is the evil thereof." I have heard it said, "that this their ease under misfortunes is in them a respect only for the company present."

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If so—It speaks yet greater to their politeness, than any thing has been said for it, or any other instance can be given. And as I did not mean, to carry this compliment of their tempers to an insensibility of mind ; if the reader will lend attention, we will give, from the words of the old lady, her story ; which she in a few days acquaintance told, with very feeling strokes of grief, in the utterance.

The Story of Madam——.

I Will not entertain you, Sir, with the relation of my birth, family, or the many circumstances of my love, that brought me to the character of a wife. Let it suffice, I virtuously loved the best and most generous of men : but my husband and self, being each of the younger branches of noble families, disoblighd our friends on both sides by our marrying. He had been bred up early in the army ; and, having there gained some rank, was soon obliged to leave me, to obey the call of honour to his country ; flattering himself, that by his success there, he should better his fortune for our happier days : as we always affix happiness to the acquisition of wealth. But, in the famous battle with your countrymen of Blenheim, having received an hurt, he was taken prisoner, and died among your people of his wounds. He left me with child ; yet, thro' the excess of my affection to him, I deprived myself of the happiness of having any living remembrance of him brought to perfection ; for I miscarried of a son at the end of eight months, thro' a fatigue of travelling to him, and the distress of my mind, in hearing of the great danger he then was in ; fearing he had not a just care taken of him among his enemies. He did not die thro' any want in that respect : for I reached him some weeks before his death ; when he gave me assurance of the great generosity of the English in the care of their prisoners. He died within my arms ; and in respect to my presence, and his own distinction, the English buried him with the honours of a soldier.

Thus,

Thus, in about nine months after our marriage, I was left a widow; and tho' my fortune was not sufficient to intitle me to any great choice of husbands; yet I often further disoblighd my own relations, in not submitting myself a second time to be disposed of, according to their judgments of happiness; and I continue his widow to this day. Some months after my return home, a decent and genteel woman came to my house, desiring to speak to me; who, when admitted, introduced in her hand, to my great agony and surprise, an infant apparition of my deceased husband. The poor woman had no design in it; but came only to inquire about the certainty of his death. At last, by my taking such notice of the child, she confessed to me, to have had formerly an amour with my husband: which was satisfactorily proved to me to have been previous even to his first protestations of love to me, by the advanced age of the dear little one, who was about five years old. Upon hearing all the circumstances of the woman's story; and finding her to be just entitled to the appellation of gentlewoman, and, as I am no very fashionable condemner of my own sex, believing her to have been virtuous and affectionate to him, I could not help sympathizing in the loss of the object of both our affections. In short, I immediately laid hold of the boy as my own, and have often smiled at myself in the remembrance, absolutely imagining I had a right in him, and such a one, as I dare say, I then would have disputed with half my fortune. But I found the conditions of having him were easy, if I provided also for the mother: which I did, by immediately taking them both into my family. The child soon learned to look upon me as its better mother; and the real one, from my kindness to him, soon began to believe that my claim to him was greater than her own: and she to her death lived with me, as an agreeable companion, and trusty assistant in all my family affairs.

'Tis certain, heaven has given us happiness even in our cares and business: which by a just search of it

it in them we are sure of finding out. It was so in my care of this infant: for as he grew, I found a pleasing sensation, in the duty, I thought I therein discharged, to the remembrance of my deceased husband. But I should appear to indulge too much the nature of a mother; if I went on to tell you, how happily that care was repaid in the promising genius my boy soon discovered, and all the accomplishments he with ease to himself gained in his education;—for I made no secret of him to the world: but introduced him to all my friends and relations, as my adopted son, and as such I had him respected; not but I was sensible I often stood the censure of my relations, and even the ridicule of my acquaintance behind my back, for my conduct. However, as the disreputation of his birth was a circumstance that could not be wiped easily from him, and as I very early took care to cross every inclination in him to the army, for I was determined not to risque my love a second time therein, I resolved to bring him up to a negotiator (or merchant); and having considerably increased my little fortune in the Mississippi, just before he was out of his time, his master offered him a partnership in his business, provided I would deposit a proper advance with him; and he go settle in the West-Indies, to take on him the management of their affairs in that part of the world. As I was almost weary of my own country, and it was an offer too advantageous for him to be refused by me, every matter was transacted for his advantage; and he set out his own master, possessed at once of a good fortune and a large business, with his two mothers for the West-Indies. We were not long arrived in that country before he received letters from his partner, beseeching his return to marry his only daughter, who having been in love with him, and taken so ill on his departure, was obliged to make this discovery to her parents for the safety of her life. I found the letter was a very agreeable surprise to him; and as I was the mother whose consent he thought himself the most bound to ask, he quickly obtained my leave for his going back; the young lady being
well

well known to, and approved of by me, during my intimacy in the family. In less than five months, he returned to us with his wife, and a large addition to his fortune; and ever since has increased in reputation and wealth, to the great esteem of the whole place, and my no little pride in his prosperity. The good mother is since dead. I sincerely loved her; and often, in considering my regard for her, have thought, that the passions which we imagine natives of our constitutions, are frequently learned from custom: thus in our christian education, women hate each other for loving the same man; whereas in the Mahometan they look on each other as thereby united in relationship; and, as having the same parent, commence sisters in mutual regard.

My son's family soon increased in a number of beautiful children; among which I took a particular love to one, a girl whose beauty and endowments of mind made me see her with pleasure the object of universal esteem. Here she broke off. "O! my dear Filia, says she, in an heroic agony, as the gods owed one Venus to the sea, (for so this lively matron expressed herself,) know, my poor mortal has paid that present back." After a full discharge of tears, which again eased her breast, she went on. "My son's partner dying a few years ago, and his whole fortune, which is very considerable, coming to my son, in right of his wife, he was obliged to hasten to Europe: which he did just before the beginning of the war, leaving his wife and us behind him, till a fitter opportunity of our following him, or his returning to us. As his wife and myself grew impatient at his absence, and women's tempers not always well agreeing in the same house, I resolved to set out first for Europe, both as I wished to end my days in my own country, and, as her parents had intirely made over to me this young beauty, who was now near seventeen, I wished to educate her in France, and there to have matched her to some person of distinction; for I intended to have given her my whole fortune, which under my son's management is now very largely in-

creased.

creased. But, alas ! how vain are our designs of futurity on earth ! how uncertain are serene days ! and what a mixture of misfortunes is dashed into the cup of happiness even at our lips ! O, Sir, this dear creature lies buried now below us, by the cursed rage of man ; that devil of quarrel ! which stalks between them on this earth, from every petty strife up to war. And as for you, Sir, turning with great indignation to the French commodore, you ought, and perhaps may answer your rash persevering to engage with an enemy you saw so much your superior." The gentleman only smiled, shewing at the same time a consciousness of his having done his duty, and expressing a tender pity for his accuser. But Mr. Walker made answer, " Madam, that very conduct you accuse is what must intitle him to the love of every brave man, and to the notice of his country. 'Tis that bravery, which obliges me to use him, you, and all, for his sake, with the respect such an enemy demands." " This, Sir, replies the very sensible and good lady, is only a man talking of the excellencies of his own trade : but when you hear me out, you will be, perhaps, less in love with the beauties of your profession. The morning we first saw you, a gladness seemed to reign in the whole ship, like that of savages at an inhuman banquet, and they used a like phrase, saying, that you would not be a breakfast for them. But when I saw you pass the other ships, I said to the commodore as I stood by him, for we expected to have seen the engagement begin with them, that you meant to be at him only. And when you came, like the breaking of a cloud with a shock of lightning and thunder together, I hastened where I and my poor child were conducted to the place of safety. This was a more melancholy situation than the other was terrible. Hither they brought the poor bleeding sailors, one after another, without legs, without arms, roaring with their pains, and laid in heaps to be butchered anew by the surgeon, in his haste and dispatch of cure or death. Here several of the objects died at our feet. Thus surrounded by the ghastly prospect, all at once,

death.

death himself came breaking in upon us, thro' the side of the ship; cut down the surgeon and one of his mates, and shattered the whole medicine-chest in pieces. Here was a total suspension of all relief to the poor wounded wretches: death coming, as it were, to reinforce his own orders, and stop every means or effort to prevent him. You may judge we soon left this place of grief and terror, as it grew also a place of danger. When we came out on the decks, there we strode over heaps of dead bodies, or slipped in the streams of blood, our hearts dying within us at the prospect of this hideous scene of mangled limbs, scattered brains, and every external sign of horror. Thus we wandered from place to place, calling on our saints, and passed unhurt thro' all the assaults of death; in which we saw numbers fall on every side of us. At last, we heard an uproar, still more dreadful, and dismal cry transmitted along the ship; "She'll sink! strike, strike." This confusion never ceased; so that tho' your guns I suppose were silent, we never missed their sound; for now our inward war grew more and more distracting, and a worse terror possessed the face of every man we met. We were soon informed, we must in our turn prepare for instant death. Here my dear Maria indulged me with her last embraces; and clasped in each other's arms we reached the higher deck. I remember her asking for the boat, and a sailor answering, "If we would save ourselves it must be by wings." And so she did; for she has winged her flight to heaven. I know nothing after this, nor how we were separated; nor, when the ship sunk, how I grasped at my deliverance: but my dear Maria, I never saw more. And tho' I believe I soon came to my senses on the float, yet that was rising to a life worse than death. In vain I searched round for my lovely fair one: but saw her not. Yet as I saw many float with myself on pieces of the wreck, and taken up, I hoped, for hope still attends us even on a wreck in the open sea, that my dear Maria was among the number; but, alas! she is not." Here her tears and silence infected the whole company.

company. At last Mr. Walker, taking on him to mention the signal acts of providence in her safety, which, if it had pleased, could have equally preserved both as one, she with great ease, which we may call great good sense, was soon cheered, and renewed her speech only to make this genteel conclusion, "That, as her story had found so many friends in the company, and been so affecting to them, she would in her turn endeavour to promote in mirth the happiness of the company, to make amends for the pain she had given it."

Tho' we made shift to repair in some measure the damage we had sustained, we were still in a shattered condition; as was the whole fleet, except the *La Victoire*. Having a great charge of prisoners, and being moreover weakened by manning the other ships, Mr. Walker steered for the first port in England; and May the 30th, arrived safe with all the prizes, in King's Road, Bristol.

The second day after his arrival, he received a congratulatory letter from the lords of the admiralty, by their secretary Mr. Corbet, (for he always corresponded with their lordships, as all private ships of war are directed to do) desiring, "That if he met with any papers in those prizes, which might give light into the proceedings or designs of the French at Martinico, he would immediately send the same to them by express;" which was strictly obeyed, there having been found a large parcel of very great consequence. By which papers also Mr. Walker, having been apprised, that another large fleet was soon to sail from Martinico and St. Domingo, he made all possible haste to repair; so that he was intirely employed both in person and thoughts on refitting for a second expedition. However fortune, like other ladies of character, does not yield to us in every thing, although she may for a lucky moment smile upon us.

A sufficient number of hands being kept for this purpose, the rest of the men, raised, by their success and great fortune, to an height of natural spirits, beyond what any artificial ones could give, swarmed over the

the city in revellings of joy and pleasure. Tho' many things were committed out of rule; yet by good luck and some advice, no disagreeable accident happened to them, or by them to others. The leisure-time Mr. Walker could get from the business of his ship, was given in compliment to the old gentlewoman, the French commodore, and others. And herein he was so apt a scholar, that we may say he outdid, in his country, the French generosity he had met with in theirs. In the first place, not the least article of money, utensils, or cloaths, was taken from any of the officers or men. The French commodore indeed was naked; and what was worse, so was the lady. But Mr. Walker supplied him with money, suits of cloaths, and all other corresponding necessities, at his landing; he also obtained for him his liberty, and that of all the officers and supercargoes of the fleet. As for the facetious old lady, she exercised her taste, at the same expence, in modelling the great docility of the Bristol milliners, and mantuamakers, in the polite cuts and misshapes of the French fashions, in which she apprehended she had done great services to the country. And as she was desirous of going much abroad, Mr. Walker hired her a coach to attend on her, the whole time during her stay, as her own. Being obliged to go to London, he requested the favour of using her coach, as far as Bath; and to have the honour of staying a week with her there, that he might shew the place to her, the commodore, and another of the captains. The rest of the French gentlemen had leave afterwards of going by themselves. The morning Mr. Walker and his company set out, they were most divertingly and unexpectedly overtaken on the road by a new kind of cavalcade of the honest tars, who, having heard that their captain was going to Bath with the French lady, were determined every one to shew it to their ladies also, as every one, who had not a lady of his own, had bought or borrowed one for the time; and thinking it a compliment to him to set out on the same day, they were resolved to make the genteeler figure on
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the occasion. The generous hearted Jacks, knowing that ribbands are a great part of the state shew of a lord-mayor's day, in graceful knots and roses on the manes and tails of the horses, were led by the like desire of gentility to the purchase; for the expence was the least article considered; of all the variety of colours, tied up in streamers, that might have passed for the strings of so many rainbows, or in knotted roses to adorn their triumph. These when brought home most of their ladies fell in love with: so that the number was increased, and equally disposed of on the necks and rumps of the horses, and in the hats, and on the breasts of the ladies. Besides these, all the men had similar cockades for themselves. Never were horses, whores, and ribbands so dear in one day at Bristol! They who got coaches, were no doubt in their own thoughts set out the most genteel. Whereas they were most the caricaturas of gentility: whilst those who flaunted in open chaises exhibited a more loose and easy picture, tho' they ran the greatest risque of breaking their necks. The waggons and their horses, adorned with boughs, ribbands, and bells, trotted on in the gayest drels of all, and seemed most happy in themselves. Some few appeared, like straggling attendants of the procession, on horseback; and he who would not be thought without a mistress, took her behind him. But they who could get neither coach, chaise, nor waggon, going in search of something with wheels, and finding some brewer's trundles, (which thro' policy or good nature were not refused them, as otherwise they would perhaps have been piratically borrowed for the occasion) sawed a but or large hog'shead into two; and nailing it down to the trundle, with a board across for a seat, set out as much in pomp, as their fellows, and more in character of a triumphal car; obliged to the ready invention and contrivance peculiar to their species for this their happy equipment. Besides having an equal ornament of party-coloured streamers properly disposed, these machines, of which there were at least twenty, were decorated with an additional fancy of an

an ensign or jack, set up on the head of the foremost horse, a pennant on a pole erected on the foremost part of the trundle, and colours, hung out by the like contrivance on a sloping one, at the stern; which made them of an amphibious kind, or a mixture of land and water carriage. I hope my reader will not imagine, I exaggerate or add any circumstances by way of making out a tale; upon my word I do not. The many living witnesses to all these particulars could easily disprove any false fact which might appear in the performance; but the number of incidents and catastrophes are so numerous and interesting, thro' the whole, that the story tells itself; and runs on, like a tongue with an easy talent of speaking, without waiting for much assistance from invention or judgment. This new invention bore much the greatest applause, and made the most corresponding and gay figure of the whole triumph. In this pomp and order, tho' with a little more swiftness than is usually agreed to, in the like processions of a lord-mayor, or lord-keeper on the first days of term, the several retinues ran by Mr. Walker's company, to the great pleasure and delight particularly of the old lady, who was very sedulous in returning the compliments of salutation, as they huzzaed and passed. "No wonder, says she to Mr. Walker, your country with this spirited liberty beats the world at sea." The French commander was less satisfied at the remark, taking this cavalcade as a kind of triumph before him, and refused going into the town with them: but was assured by Mr. Walker of his own ignorance of the whole affair; and that the moment the men got to the town, they would of themselves instantly disperse, and he never see one of them; that it was only a whim put into execution in their droll manner of doing things, which always afforded mirth even to themselves at their awkwardness in imitating any customs upon land: in which, as in their last sort of equipages, they could not help mixing their own sea manners even in their common expressions; being a people of a distinct nature in themselves, for the most

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part divested of common knowledge of things on shore. "If then, that be the case, says he, and so long as it is the case, you will always be masters in men at sea. Now our sailors are at sea just what your's are at land: beings not properly acting in their own element; and therefore awkward in their manners, as endeavouring, on the contrary of your's, to make those of the land submit to the uses of the sea. In which we run a danger, where you, on the other hand, are diverted."

Their stay at Bath, where the French lady and officers expressed great pleasure and satisfaction, could not be long; Mr. Walker's compliments going farther than any entertainment this gay place could give, he having thro' his interest gained all their names to be put in a cartel, in less than two months from their first arrival. Their turn was now to go, and he himself was obliged to take leave of them at Bath, as his business hurried him to London. But not a circumstance was forgot, which might attend as a convenience on their stay, even to their departure, and after; as to provisions, wine, &c. being sent them on board. The commodore, all the officers of the fleet, supercargoes and passengers went, all by the same interest, together. Mr. Walker gave the commodore two letters, one for the merchant at Morlaix, and the other for the governor at Brest, recommending to them the bravery of the gentleman, who was the bearer; and he had the pleasure soon after to see his name set to a command in the king's service. Both he and the lady expressed an additional distress in their common loss, being deprived of the means of making Mr. Walker a return for his civilities: she indeed offered him a draft on her son in France, which he refused, but she wrote to him from Bristol, full of acknowledgments and promises of gratitude to a generosity she wished she had never known. Which without doubt, had she lived, would have corresponded with her other proofs of sense and spirit. But Mr. Walker has been some little time ago informed that, immediately after she had seen her adopted son, she

she was taken ill, without having had time before her death to make her will in his favour, her then present one being made to her beloved Maria ; and that her relations have sued him to an account ; which he is well able to pay, having, thro' the use of her fortune, amassed two very respectable estates in Europe and the West-Indies.

C H A P. IX.

The second cruise of the Boscawen private ship of war ; her taking a French snow ; the mutiny of the men on taking a Dutch vessel ; her putting in to Madeira, and stay there.

AFTER the departure of our French company from Bath, Mr. Walker fell ill of a fever there. Mr. Holdsworth went to him and staid with him till his recovery, so far as to be able to be brought down by four men in a chair ; his time for going to London being elapsed, and his presence every hour needed at Bristol. From thence, after a most expeditious refitting of new masts, yards, and other materials, we set sail July the 26th, 1745, with the same officers and crew ; except our first lieutenant, Mr. Brooks, who was son to one of the lords of the regency at Hamburgh, an acquaintance of Mr. Walker's, and had been, the first moment Mr. Walker took the command of a cruising ship, sent under him by his father to sea. This gentleman, on the news of our success in the last signal engagement, and on Mr. Walker's writing to his father in his favour, as he was a young man of the greatest courage and merit, was called home, and immediately promoted to the command of a sixty gun ship against the Turks.

I must run the risque of some little censure in first setting out with a superstitious story, as ominous to the misfortune of this cruise, not that in myself I feel my own mind under the tyranny of superstition, however I may have a proper deference to the good authorities of others. But without supposing belief at all

all to interfere, the mentioning of it here is necessary, as it produced a new subject which requires to be distinctly treated. There had been a report made by the French officers, when this ship was first taken, that a gunner's wife had been murdered on board. Whether this story was known to some of the men, and so promulgated among the rest, Mr. Walker could say, so far from mentioning it himself, he never once seemed to think of it. But one of the men, remarkable for his sobriety and good character, one night alarmed the ship; declaring, that he had seen a strange appearance of a woman, describing her dress and figure, who informed him, among some other particulars, that the ship would be lost. Mr. Walker took all the pains imaginable to suppress such a notion, seeing it too much prevailed on the spirits of his men; but the opinion had taken root, and he found it a more serious matter than he at first imagined: so strong is any previous impression received in the mind, planting itself against all the efforts and regular attacks of reason! He called the man into his cabin, who to the last persisted in his story; but with his usual civility and sense, as he was perhaps a man of all the rest the most remarkable for those qualities, he promised not to repeat it. Had the man raised up a thousand spectres, acquainting them with the falls of kingdoms and of kings, it had been treated with unconcern; but the prediction of their own misfortune, so near at hand, made a deep impression on the courage of the boldest. The fellow came again seriously and privately to Mr. Walker, and declared, that he a second time had conversed with her. And a third time, he called out, in seeming agonies to some of his ship-mates, "that he then saw and heard her." These were enemies for Mr. Walker to deal with, which he had not yet found among the living; for now a total languor infected all the common men, and even some of the officers. And two more of the men, in their scared imaginations, were ready to make oath, of their seeing her at different times, and gave accounts shocking in circumstances. Mr. Walker

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could not conceive it to be any scheme or contrived tale to draw off the affections of the men; or debilitate their courage. Nor did punishment appear a proper means of suppressing the opinions of the mind; but still there was a necessity for some cure.

It may perhaps be still thought a matter of small consequence to mention: but they who are conversant with men under a command, know that a despondency often runs thro' a whole set of them from a trifling cause, and is generally attended with consequences very dangerous to a commander. Enthusiasm itself indeed is a spectre of the brain; but, being more a spirit of life, it raises and actuates men to bold and glorious actions; for the greatest deeds which emblazon history, from the first date of time to the present day, have been achieved by this spirit alone. If enthusiasm, which is the highest region of superstition, will inspire to such acts of heroism, to what remissness of action will despondency, which is its lowest abyss, enervate and clog the mental powers! for these two degrees rise and fall from the smallest turns or changes of things. Like other mechanic spirits in the tube, affected by every alteration of the air, the smallest accident may influence the greatest designs, and carry them up to prosperity, fame, and sun-shine; or lower them to adversity and nipping frosts, in which not a bud of glory can put forth or flourish. In what an uncertain region then does a commander move, who acts in this sphere of praise and popular approbation! 'Tis therefore wrong in those, who judge of their actions at a distance, not to allow sometimes the greatest accidents of success or misfortune to be consequences often of the smallest cause. I speak but as to the general; for as Mr. Walker has never been under public censure as an officer, all I mean to advance is, that the foregoing relation, tho' it may appear a subject fit only for a nursery, (according to the diabolical custom of frightening children to sleep,) was a matter of more moment at the time, and afterwards, than can be, without sensible consideration, at first imagined. And I must
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also take care to excuse myself as a writer; hoping the reader will not think, because I am beginning a tragical scene, that I endeavour to imitate the tragic authors, who write only to the passions, by introducing a ghost.

Mr. Walker therefore, in his then circumstances, put this affair on such a footing, as if some others had contrived this apparition to strike the conceptions of all such fools as would believe it; and he promised a reward to any who would discover the inventors of such an ill-timed plot of diversion. Finding this begin to answer his expectation, he thought it the season to apply the cure, and gave money to two of the most trully and intelligent of the common men he could pitch upon, to take on them, by some well planned story, to bring the rest into an opinion, that they were the drest-up phantom; and they accordingly underwent a very severe censure, in words only, for such their imprudence. This had a better effect than any other means of argument; and it found also a readier belief from a story he to this purpose told us very a-propos, of having himself seen an apparition, which from the appearing probability in its circumstances of being real, and proving in the end a cheat, shewed the general foundation of such pretences.

As we had nothing material between the first day of our cruise, and the twenty second of August, I shall, with the leave of some of my readers, fill up the space with the relation of Mr. Walker's story; especially as there may be a lesson drawn from it. Those who think it an intrusion on the subject may very readily pass it over.

In the midst of June, 1734, Mr. Walker lying at anchor at Cadiz, in his ship the Elizabeth, a gentleman of Ireland, whose name was Burnet, was then on board, going to take his passage over to Ireland. This gentleman was a particular acquaintance of Mr. Walker's, and he was extremely fond of him, being a man of great good sense and very lively in conversation. The night before the affair which we speak of happened, the subject turned upon apparitions of deceased

deceased friends, in which this gentleman seemed much to believe, and told many strange stories as authorities for them, besides giving some metaphysical arguments, chiefly that the natural fear we had of them proved the soul's confession of them. But Mr. Walker, who was intirely of another way of thinking, treating all his arguments with ridicule, Mr. Burnet, who was bred a physician, was curious to try how far fancy might be wrought on in an unbeliever, and resolved to prove the power of this natural fear over the senses: a strange way, you will say, to convince the mind by attacking the imagination; or, if it was curiosity to see the operations of fear work on fancy, it was too nice an experiment to anatomize a friend's mind for information only. But perhaps the humour of the thought was the greatest motive; for he was a man of a gay temper, and frolicksome.

About noon, as they were standing, with more of the ship's company, upon deck, near the fore-castle, looking at some of the governor's guard-boats, making fast to a buoy of a ship in the bay, in order to watch the money, that it might not be carried out of the country, Mr. Burnet proposed, as a plan for a wager, he being a remarkable good swimmer, to leap off the gunnel of the ship, and dive all the way quite under water, from the ship to the boats at that distance, and so rise up just upon them, to startle the people at watch in them. A wager being laid, he undrest, jumped off, and dived intirely out of sight. Every body crouded forwards, keeping their eyes at the distance where he was expected to come up; but he never rising to their expectation, and the time running past their hopes of ever seeing him more, it was justly concluded he was drowned, and every body was in the greatest pain and concern; especially those, who by laying the wager, thought themselves in some measure necessary to his death. But he, by skilful diving, having turned the other way behind the ship, and being also very active, got up by the quarter-ladder in at the cabin-window, whilst every body was busy and in confusion, at the forward part

of the ship; then concealing himself the remaining part of the day in a closet in the state-room, wrapped himself up in a linen night-gown of Mr. Walker's. Evening coming on, the whole ship's company being very melancholy at the accident, Mr. Walker retired with a friend or two to his cabin, where, in their conversation, they often lamented the sad accident and loss of their friend and dear companion, speaking of every merit he had when living, which is the unenvied praise generally given to our friends when they can receive nothing else from us. The supposed dead man remained still quiet, and heard more good things said to his memory, than perhaps he would else have ever in his life-time heard spoken to his face. As soon as it was night, Mr. Walker's company left him; and he being low in spirits went to bed, where lying, still pensive on the late loss of his companion and friend, and the moon shining direct thro' the windows, he perceived the folding doors of the closet to open; and, looking stedfast towards them, saw something, which could not fail startling him, as he imagined it a representation of an human figure; but recalling his better senses, he was fond to persuade himself, it was only the workings of his disturbed fancy, and turned away his eyes. However, they soon again returned in search of the object; and seeing it now plainly advance upon him, in a slow and constant step, he recognized the image of his departed friend. He has not been ashamed to own he felt terrors which shook him to the inmost soul. The mate, who lay in the steerage at the back of the cabin, divided only by a bulk-head, was not yet a-bed; and hearing Mr. Walker challenge, with a loud and alarmed voice, "What are you?" ran into him with a candle, and meeting Mr. Burnet in the linen gown, down drops the mate without so much as an ejaculation. Mr. Burnet, now beginning himself to be afraid, runs for a bottle of smelling spirits he knew lay in the window, and applied them to the nose and temples of the swooning mate. Mr. Walker, seeing the ghost so very alert and good-natured,

tured, began to recover from his own apprehension, when Mr. Burnet cried out to him, "Sir, I must ask your pardon; I fear I have carried the jest too far, I swam round and came in at the cabin window; I meant, Sir, to prove to you the natural awe the bravest men must be under at such appearances, and have, I hope, convinced you in yourself." "Sir, says Mr. Walker, glad of being awakened from a terrible dream, and belief of his friend's death, you have given me a living instance of them; there needs no better proof: but pray take care you do not bring death amongst us in earnest." He then lent his aid in the recovery of the poor mate, who, as he retrieved his senses, still relapsed at the sight of Mr. Burnet: so that Mr. Walker was obliged to make him intirely disappear, and go call others to his assistance; which took up some considerable time in doing, every body, as Mr. Burnet advanced to them, being more or less surpris'd; but they were called to by him, and told the manner of the cheat, and then they were by degrees convinced of his reality; tho' every one was before thoroughly satisfied of his death. I being persuaded that this story carries a lesson in it, which speaks itself, shall conclude it by mentioning this circumstance, that the poor mate never rightly recovered his senses from that hour. Nature had received too great a shock, by which reason was flung from her seat, and could never regain it afterwards: a constant stupidity hung around him, and he could never be brought to look direct at Mr. Burnet afterwards, tho' he was as brave a man as ever went, in all his senses, to face death by day-light.

This story being circulated through the several degrees of men in the ship, its circumstances seconded the now prevailing opinion in most of the people, that the other story was also an invention contrived thro' a frolic, or for other purposes. But the prejudice afterwards again fatally prevailed: however, it was allayed for the present.

August the 22d, we gave chase to a snow, the Catharina, laden with wine and flour from Bayonne, bound to Martinico, which struck to our first gun.

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She proved a very acceptable prize, as we may say we were here our own agents; for we were in want both of her wine and flour: taking out a sufficiency of both to answer our occasions, Mr. Walker afterwards sent her into Madeira, where he intended to follow.

September the first, seeing a sail, we gave chase, and next day came up with her. She was the Fortune snow from Orantaver, bound to Hamburgh. And here a new catastrophe happened. This was a sort of infant mutiny in the ship, not from any disgust to the command or service, but thro' the covetousness of the men, setting themselves up as judges in the condemnation of her as a prize. The case was, she had a large sum of money on board; and the master shewing some backwardness to produce his bills of lading, occasioned a suspension at first of her being French property. Whereupon Mr. Walker had her thoroughly examined; and having to his full satisfaction found, that her cargo, which consisted of two hundred pipes, and thirteen half pipes of wine, and ninety-six bags of money, was for the proper account and risque of Rætic and Zacharias Rigter, merchants in Hamburgh; he dismissed her. This was a step very ill relished by most in the ship; and it was insisted upon in their private conferences afterwards, that she was a lawful prize, and consequently they had a right to, and ought to have detained her. However this murmuring did not reach Mr. Walker's ears, till it had gathered itself into a torrent of dissatisfaction. Whilst he was at supper, Mr. Kennedy, one of the lieutenants, came running in with an account, that the crew was in a mutiny! Mr. Walker, and his officers near him, immediately arming themselves, rushed upon deck, where he found them assembled, not indeed in arms, but in a mutinous manner, demanding a parley, in relation to his having dismissed the late capture. Mr. Walker insisted, That this was not the way to ask one; that he was willing even the meanest man in the ship should be satisfied of his conduct; but then he would take care himself to

give that satisfaction ; and would not be called to an account for it by them. He was, he said, still more sorry, it should be ever said of him, that he was obliged to take up arms against his own people, in defence of that conduct which could be so easily supported by words only : that it would be a pain to him to reflect on it, as long as he lived ; and a blot on the character he imagined he had gained : that, in the first place, he would not enter into particulars with them, whilst assembled in a manner, so like a mutiny. Nevertheless, he was desirous of explaining to them the nature of their right over Dutch vessels, as it might be for their general information and ease, (for in all probability they would meet many of them in those seas) but that it should be at a time when he pleased to call them together ; for as they now stood assembled, they stood in opposition to him, and that every man who did not instantly separate to his duty, when he gave the word, he would treat as associates in a mutiny. Two of the men, *viz.* Charles Eaton and Michael Morgan, crying out, that then it would be too late, as the chace would be out of sight, Mr. Walker demanded the others to bring them in irons to him, in token of their obedience, and sent two of his officers to see it put in execution. This was obeyed. He then ordered them all to their duties till the morning, at which time he would come himself, and give them the satisfaction he promised. They accordingly dispersed, and as strict watch was kept the whole night, nothing of disturbance happened, except that two others endeavouring to unloose their mess-mates, were laid hold of, and being also put in irons, were all removed up to the quarter-deck. In the morning Mr. Walker bringing the treaty in his hand of 1674, relating to neutral ships, and the liberty allowed them to trade with our enemies, read it himself to them ; and had several copies of the particular articles dispersed among them, which by his direction, had been for this purpose transcribed over night : and, as many of the officers themselves were of the same way of thinking with the men, he then explained

explained to the whole, that as she had no contraband goods on board, he had certainly no right, to detain her, by the treaty. And as to her having any French property on board, it is most certain, if that had been proved, they had a right to seize an enemy's effects in the hands of a friend : but that, even so, they had no right to detain the ship, without being subject to all charges to the Dutchmen for demurrage, and other losses, which might accrue to other parts of the cargo ; for tho' we had a right to take it, she had a right to carry it ; as the treaty does not hinder her from carrying French property, if she pleased, provided it was not contraband ; else why should the treaty distinguish what shall be deemed contraband, and what otherways ? that therefore it would be very impolitic in them to stop or detain any vessels, even supposing part of the cargo to be French property, unless such part were sufficient to defray all the expences they might thereby bring on their owners, as aforesaid. That king's ships indeed, tho' as yet they had given few examples of the kind, might, at all events, attack and break such secret trade of their enemies ; as the country might find an advantage in paying large damages to one nation for the sake of distressing another : but they had their owner's advantage to consider, who had but private pockets ; and that he thought it more honourable in them to return home without a prize, than to bring only such mock ones as these ; which, besides the injury done to private property, might prove rather a loss and expence to their owners, than profit or advantage ; and which would be reasonably deducted from any after-prizes they might fortunately make, as charges on the profits of the cruise. He said, he knew there were some gentlemen who looked upon the circumstance of having any French property on board as significant, under the meaning of the treaty, to condemn ship and cargo, at least, the latter, without any damages for detention or otherways, being recovered on the part of the Dutch : that he allowed treaties to be instruments made use of, accord-

ing to the circumstances of the times and place; but that, for his part, he was resolved to be guided in his conduct by the plain reason of things, and did not set up for giving occasional meanings to matters of such import. This argument had the wished respect paid to it: it was sensibly understood by most of the better sort, whom the more ignorant followed in assent, as they, who only follow, are led with more ease, as in the herd and bird kinds, by a call or known note among themselves, than the most intelligent speech of reason in an officer or superior. It had also the further desired effect in our future examinations of all such ships; for from the journals I can collect many things of the like kind which came under our scrutiny and inspection. In all which examinations the greatest exactness was observed, to avoid giving the least umbrage or offence: so far as always sending our own boat for the master and commander; as it was an easier and readier office to us than them, and the last question was always asked by Mr. Walker himself at departing, whether they had received any injury or damage from any of the men? This proceeding, I know, will be by some esteemed judicious, by others triflingly cautious. I mean but to relate it, not to set it out for praise.

The 28th, the island of Madeira bore S. S. W. and there we went in to water. On our arrival we found the prize Catharina not disposed of, so Mr. Walker purchased her for a tender on the Boscawen, she having been proved to be a fine sailer, and gave the command to Mr. John Kennedy, the second lieutenant, calling her the George. Here we put on shore the French prisoners, and delivered the four mutineers to the consul, to be put on board one of his majesty's ships, which should first come to the island. And here again eleven of the men committed a disturbance, by an affront done to the major part of a whole congregation at their service of mass, and indeed to the religion of the place; for seeing the people, as they came out of the chapel, dip their hands in a fount of holy-water, and sprinkle themselves and fac-

es with the liquid, one of them, pretending to dip in the fount, very ridiculously let fall some foot into it, which he had got concealed in his hand. This, instead of making the abluments appear white as angels, darkened them as black as devils: one part of the congregation thought it a prodigy, and said their prayers the faster; others laughed at the fellows, whilst themselves were of as good a complexion for ridicule. But the men, staying too long to enjoy the joke, were detected, apprehended, and imprisoned. This was a new perplexity to Mr. Walker; it appearing almost impossible for him to obtain their liberty. He applied to the consul, who was destitute of all power of giving advice. He at length asked the consul to invite about a dozen of the principal priests and gentlemen of the place to an entertainment on board; and this was, on all sides, complied with. The entertainment was as elegant as all the delicacies of the country, a fine band of musick; which to them was the highest part of it, and all the variety of wines on board and out of the prize, could afford. At a proper time Mr. Walker took occasion of mentioning the rash and inconsiderate act of his common sailors, and representing to them the loss it would be to his majesty's service, to detain his men at this juncture: that the act was committed thro' an intire ignorance of the nature of the ceremony; only as a merriment on the croud, not as an affront to religion, or irreverence of what they did not understand: and he promised them, that if they would immediately send him his men, he would, upon his honour, make the chapel a present of a pair of silver branches, or wrought candlesticks, to the value of five hundred mill-rees or about 140 *l.* sterling, out of the first prize his ship and men should take. This offer was as politely, in recommendation; seconded by many of the company, and his men were sent him that evening. Mr. Walker at the same time sent back presents of several sorts of wine to many of the priests and gentlemen. A circumstance happened in the course of the entertainment, which gave him an opportunity, if he had pleased,

pleased, of recovering his men by an artifice on the weak understanding of the priests then present. Having a large flint vial of spirit of vitriol in his cabin, he told the priests he wondered the water, after gaining an holiness from their hands, could be subject to receive a stain, or any contamination whatever; that he had a blessed water on board which would not: and so producing the vial, and pouring the seeming water into a bason, he threw bits of dirt and soot, and pieces of rags, into it before them. The spirit immediately devoured them all, (tearing the parts so fine as not to be observed) to the great wonder of the priests, as a supposed miracle; so that they would have gladly accepted this blessed water in exchange of all the prisoners. But as he found the former proposal of a present had already worked a miracle, (which it seldom fails of doing) and being above taking an advantage by imposing on their ignorance, he discovered the reality to them; the whole company smiling at the easy trade of imposture.

C H A P. X.

The Boscawen's departure from Madeira, her meeting the Duke of Bedford privateer, and separation from her in a storm; the accidents she met with; the continuance of the storm, and her intire loss.

OCTOBER the 5th, the Boscawen took her departure with the George tender from Madeira, and cruised off the western isles till November the 12th, in which time they chased several ships, which proved to be either Dutch or English. In the night of the 21st, she lost the company of the tender, which did not answer her lights. In the morning the Boscawen shortened sail, and went under double reef top-sails till six o'clock, when, having gained no sight of the George, she immediately made all the sail she could carry and gave the tender chace; but during the whole day, seeing nothing of that vessel, she made the best of her way to get into her station, where she,

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in a constant course of ill luck, examined several ships; none of which happened any ways to belong to an enemy.

November 2d, she gave chase to a large ship, which, upon coming up with her, proved to be the Duke of Bedford privateer, belonging to Bristol, which had been out nine weeks also without any success, save that of having escaped from an hundred sail of French merchant ships in the bay, under convoy of seven men of war, whom she fell in with. Thus we were convinced the French had changed their manner of coming home, by keeping always in whole fleets and under convoy, never trusting any considerable cargoes in single or straggling ships. Mr. Walker and the captain of the Bedford then agreed to keep company. The second day after our sailing in concert very hard gales of wind arose, and a great swell from the south; the wind S. S. W. which carried away the main-top-mast. The ensuing days the swell still continued, but the wind somewhat abated: but on the 12th, the wind again blew hard, the weather was cloudy, and there was much rain, which laid us under our vallanced mizens. And here we may say the Boscawen received her fatal blow; for in handing or making fast the main-sail, tho' orders had been given to chain the yard before the people went up, yet the boatswain had neglected it, the strap of the *geer-block*, by which the yard hung, gave way, and the main yard fell down, having above sixty people on it, with the greatest violence on the gunnel of the ship, clearing all before it. And altho' the starboard yard arm fell so far a-peek into the sea, as to be a great part in the water, yet not a man was hurt or drowned. The ship certainly received some injury in her joints by the accident; for she very soon after grew leaky, which was the inlet to all our future misfortunes in her, that ended in her intire loss.

The Duke of Bedford privateer was along-side when this accident happened; but the violence of the storm not allowing her to give any assistance, she

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was obliged, in order to provide for herself, to leave the Boscawen : and they never saw each other afterwards.

The second day after this separation, the storm still continuing, the ship sprung a leak in the lar-board-side of her fore-hold ; and made so much water, as to put them under a necessity of keeping two of her pumps continually going : but, by getting their cables from between decks, they found means to come at the leak, and stopped it for that day : but the storm coming on more and more terrible, and the swell also increasing, the ship now laboured hard ; so that she soon began to work in all her lower parts, as if she was loose, or had a joint in her keel, and would part a-sunder. In which state she now again made such a quantity of water, that the carpenters were at a loss how to judge of the nature of her leaks, apprehending them to proceed from a general weakness of the whole ship in her original construction : we were at this time cruising off the western isles. Mr. Walker ordered the ship to bear away, till she should come forty or fifty leagues westward of Scilly, where he intended to have finished the remaining part of his cruise. In which station they might, in case of more urgent accidents, be within twenty-four hours sail of Scilly or Kinsale : but on the 17th, the water so greatly increasing in the hold as to alarm the whole ship, the lieutenants and officers signed a petition to Mr. Walker, setting forth the ill state of her, and requesting, that, for the preservation of their lives and her, he would intirely give over the cruise, and make the best of his way to England. Mr. Walker met them directly in the ward-room, in consultation thereupon. He told them, that tho' they had not yet found the success expected, he hoped their want of business had not made them weary of the cruise before it was over ; for tho' he agreed with them, that the ship was not in a condition to keep them seas, at so great a distance from home, yet, at the same time, he did not apprehend her to be in such imminent danger as to oblige them to give over the cruise. How-

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ever he said, he would be guided in all things by reason and facts, and desired every one to give their opinion without reserve. Mr. Dottin, the first lieutenant, said, he had very lately examined into the whole state of the ship; that her leaks every minute grew worse, their rigging was spent, and their provision bad; which circumstances were alone the occasion of his becoming a petitioner with the rest. The carpenter made a report, that he hourly expected some butts or planks to start; the heads of the nails being all eaten away with rust, and the planks not so well trinned, as our English ships in general are; and that, from her main hatch to her fore-mast, she was so weak, he would not insure her, notwithstanding their best pumping, to keep above water for twenty-four hours. Mr. Walker then consented to proceed for the first port in England; observing, that his honour and duty to his owners obliged him to speak to every ship he saw in his way home: but, above every thing, he recommended to them to use their best endeavours to animate and encourage the people, that their spirits might be kept up, and consequently be the better able to perform their duty, as therein not only all hopes of future success, but their present safety depended.

From this time to the 20th, the men kept willingly to the pumps. The ship had four pumps of the French construction, which now were kept constantly employed, and which discharged a great deal more water, in equal time, than our common sort do; tho' not so much by the half as chain pumps, but they take less room. Therefore, for all common merchant ships, the French construction is by much the most preferable: but notwithstanding the great and incessant discharge of these pumps, the water all the time gained upon their labour, and the weather continued still very rough, so as to occasion the ship to work upon the waves with great difficulty. A languor now seemed to steal upon the limbs and senses of the men, and the symptoms of their former despondency began to appear. Every method was
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taken to invigorate them; but rising circumstances seemed to oppose themselves, at every effort to all endeavours of that kind. For now, on the twentieth, the storm again increased, and by the great labour and working of the ship, the water rushed in at all her seams in her fore-part, and several butts above water started; so that now the pumps with all their power were not sufficient to keep it under; but every other hand was obliged to be employed in baling, which threw up such large quantities or such a flood of water on the decks, that the scupper-holes which were ten in number, and very large, were not able to vent it with an equal discharge; and in this situation we continued for seven days longer.

Another speedy consultation was called about throwing the guns over board, and six of the foremost were agreed on to be thrown over. Some advanced, that bringing the guns backwards in the hold would raise the ship more out of the water forwards; but as her leakings were too low for that to be of any use, it was thought that the greater weight in her hold would make her labour still the harder; so they were without delay thrown over.

In this fatal dilemma one of another kind was formed among the people as the only resource for their lives. This was no less than a conspiracy to seize on the small arms, and take the barge and yawl into their possession, and so leave the ship with the captain, officers, and the rest of the crew, to the mercy of the seas. Horrid as this design was, yet as the prospect of preservation by any other means was impossible, it was a crime more to be pitied and prevented than formally condemned and punished; every man being desirous of quitting the ill-omened ship, which was now again believed to be destined to a watery fate. Mr. Walker, who, at all such times, feared his men would naturally fly to cabals, and their own directions, from labour and command, where death seemed the only end of both, had before placed his spies amongst them; and being informed of every movement, and among the rest of this, took occasion to

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order up some of his officers on the tops, and disposing the rest in the fore-castle and other places, where the arms were lodged, they, on a signal given, seizing arms only for themselves, in a moment threw all the rest of the small arms and arm-chests, all the pole-axes, crows, shot, and every weapon or instrument of offence, overboard. By these means, without waiting for further arguments, the poor conspirators, astonished, perceived it out of their power to execute their design, which they were conscious was detected and at once prevented; and, in the greatest agonies of surprize and fear, imagined Mr. Walker and his officers were now going to put in practice against them what had been by themselves intended against others. But Mr. Walker immediately, with great mildness, told them, he sincerely forgave them their foolish rashness, as he looked on it an effect rather of their fears than disobedience: that if they would now exert their best strength and spirits, to pump and bale out the water, they in all probability would preserve themselves and him: but the moment they declined so doing, they must expect a sudden death in going to the bottom. If they did their utmost, he and his officers would never part from them: but if they refused their assistance to the general preservation, he had it in his power to provide separately for himself and officers, as they before so cowardly intended to have done for themselves. This being at once the doctrine and practice of humanity, so affected the poor fellows, that many of them were seen to turn aside and weep; touched with a sense of the generous goodness of their preserver, or with remorse at their own intentions. They all then endeavoured, dispirited as they were, to give him three cheers, of their love and gratitude; which were sent up in such broken and feeble sounds, that Mr. Walker, on his part, could not help letting fall a token of his grief at the death of their usual vigour. He and his officers, being solely armed, removed next the barge and yawl, for their greater security, from the booms; and bringing them ast, lashed them one
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on each side the quarters, where they were immediately under his own eye and command. Thus disappointed of all other means, which was the great enforcing argument, the men applied themselves to the pumps, and their other duty, with such unwearied diligence, that they did all that could be expected from men in their condition.

From this time Mr. Walker never quitted the quarter-deck; nor once lay down for seven days, sleeping only as he stood, leaning on the barricade or rail of the quarter-deck; for the men watched every motion and every word. And had he disappeared a minute, 'tis believed the duty of the ship had stopped, the officers themselves; notwithstanding the frequent assurances of resolution given by them to Mr. Walker, at sometimes being as desponding as the men. But whatever the captain's own fears were, he never discovered them even to his officers; insisting to the last, he did not think the ship in any instant danger: so that such of them as gave a preference to his judgment over their own senses, a while grew more easy. Mr. Walker had taken in at Madeira twelve quarter casks of the best Mahmsay wine, intended as presents for his friends. These he ordered regularly to be portioned out to them, under the inspection of his officers; which by its good body and soundness greatly kept up the natural strength and spirits of the men. It was thought proper to move two of the pumps forward to the hatch-way, which being just under Mr. Walker, as he stood on the quarter-deck, you might see the men in their labour look up at him, as it were searching his countenance; and at every forced encouragement send up some blessing, often answering his seeming chearfulness with not unmanly tears. Another circumstance added much to our calamity. All the casks, by the water rising so high in the hold, floated or rolled about, striking from side to side against the ceilings of the ship; that they were obliged to stave all such of them as they could reach, to the loss of most of their provision and water: and the men had no other suste-

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nance; except some cheese, than the wine and biscuit.

On the twenty-fourth, the storm grew still more violent than before; so as to have given business sufficient for the soundest ship, to have made her way in safety thro' it. She now worked forward, as it were upon joints, letting in vast springs of water at every motion, and groaning hard as she laboured on in the storm. Seventeen more of the guns were without much consultation sent over, the anchors cut away with the sprit-sail-yard, and flying gibboom, and every thing done, without regard to loss, which was thought to give her ease. The pumps also choaked in the hatch-way, and were hastily removed to their former place. The next day, the fore-sail, as they were hauling it up, split all to pieces by the violence of the wind. The rigging also, through incessant strains, by the labouring of the ship, gave way. Thus they just swam almost a wreck upon the sea, every moment expecting to sink for ever, and every wave to be the last thro' which the ship could struggle; for they could not spare the hands from the pumps, and bailing to repair any damages. Happy had it then been thought, if their worst enemies had come to save them by bondage from a more inglorious death. But not a sail was met with or seen, since the departing of the Duke of Bedford privateer, during the whole time of their distress. Mr. Walker was now the only man, except one, who did not make some visible shew of his fears; and indeed the only one who appeared unconcerned as to the danger, as he insisted the ship would reach her port: but then his great anxiety of acting, shewed him touched with a more general care than he would express for himself alone. Being addressed by some of the most terrified, that prayers might be said, he answered, he hoped every man's heart was an altar of constant prayer and praise; but that a formal ceremony of such duty presented in distress only, looked like a compulsive sacrifice of fear, and was confessing the motive of it, despondency, which might be justly rewarded with

with the bad effects of its danger in lowering the spirits or hopes of the men ; but that to animate themselves and men, was doing their duty to the last : on such good assurances of being right therein, prepared to submit to fate, or ready to embrace with thanks their deliverance. When afternoon came, the men began to flag in spirits and in work, seeming careless of the arrival of that fate to which they thought they must yield at last ; and several argued it to be folly in them to pump any longer. To offer threats or penalties where death was asked, promised little success. Whilst Mr. Walker was thus in study what means to use, he missed most of his principal officers at the same time. They in fact had retired from under his eye, not daring before him to give utterance to their mutual feelings of their danger, and had met in the gun-room in melancholy consolation, in order to take eternal leave of each other. Acquainted herewith, but not seeming to notice it, he privately sent up a man to the top to cry a sail, and having called his drum to him, bid it immediately beat to arms. The sudden alarm of joy soon elevated the men, and startled the despondents below ; who, running up and hearing a sail cried, closed round Mr. Walker for his orders. " Sir, says one, do you think of engaging ? " " Yes, Sir, says Mr. Walker, in a low voice, when I see an enemy so near—your own fears, which attack the hearts of all my other men. I am willing to take my greater part of duty, but you leave too much to my share." Perceiving the device, in which as they felt the rebuke, they were convinced of his superior perseverance, they never after left his command : but the discovery was not communicated to the men ; for it now growing dark, they were kept up in spirits for the night, as in hopes of coming up with the sail next morning.

The next morning no sail appearing, the men were somewhat cast down ; but the storm being abated they were encouraged to proceed to the first land, as they were in no capacity of going in search of a chase. This held for the greatest part of the day, till re-

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reflection shewing them the insufficiency of their past hopes, and no further prospect rising of success, the former malady of mind returned, and all seemed lost again; when Mr. Walker assured them, as positive in his own judgment, they would see land next day. This again wound up hope, which waits on expectation; tho' he certainly did not make assurance to himself of his promise, but only used this device as a policy which touched the chief spring of the mind's machine, namely, the same hope on which all the other passions turn. During this suspense, a man came running upon the quarter-deck, whether scared by his own fears, or sent by the others, is uncertain, with news, that the ship was just going to sink. "You villain, you lie, cries Mr. Walker: she told me otherwise this moment, as she rose on yonder wave;" and knocked down the poor fellow, who went back to his comrades, with an account of the reception he met with for his over hasty intelligence. Thus Mr. Walker's undismayed resolution to the last began to communicate itself to the spirits of the others, and kept them up thro' weariness and fatigue, with an hope which sometimes grew to a faith, that they were to be preserved because he was the prophet; and thus another night was worn thro' in labour and anxiety, wishing for a suspension of death 'till morn, which was expected to bring the promised reprieve.

The morning came, and joy, like an additional light, broke forth with it, and cheered the souls and very beings of the men; for land now appearing, proved it a true prophecy. Thither they steered, and the weather clearing and wind favourable, they seemed to make an happy progress on their way, tho' still in equal danger, and with incessant fatigue of mind and body. The land was St. Ives: at length their strength was just exhausted, notwithstanding the continued prospect of relief more and more at hand, which spoke an encouragement, they reached the bay, and had they had another league to go, 'tis thought their best labour had not attained it, so spent were the men, and so deep was the water in the ship.

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They instantly hoisted their colours of distress, and fired some of their remaining guns as signals; upon which the boats went off to their assistance, and brought the ship into the road. From the quantity of water in her hold, and the want of anchors to bring her up, it was judged most adviseable to get her within the pier; but the people not being able thro' the violence of the wind and sea so to do, she fell to leeward of the harbour, and lodged herself on a rocky shore, which the moment she touched, she broke into two, and altogether separated; one mast falling in upon the shore, and the other mast upon the sea. By the nearness of the shore and the number of boats, all the men were saved except four, and three of these had foretold the destruction of the ship.

Thus fell a wreck the finest privateer in Europe: 'tis certain she felt a shock by the falling of the yard; but the carpenter insisted she would have equally leaked, and her butts have started on account of the heads of the nails being eaten away with rust, and of the planks not being well trinned, as has been before observed; which French method of building is herein erroneous: for tho' they be very skilful in the mechanism of a ship as to her proportions for well sailing, yet they are not so just in the goodness of their constructions, their bodies being generally too weak, as was proved to be the case of this unfortunate ship: whereas the trinnels or pegs by swelling, become of a united body with the rest of the planks or timber, and, having no heads for the planks to force against, cannot so readily start as the others. But in accounting for this accident to the ship, I have heard Mr. Walker lay great charge of it to himself, and have his express directions to mention it, as it may be of some public use. That the French, regarding chiefly the sailing of their ships, may, in their great knowledge of mechanics, calculate to an exactness the strength of them, to the weight of metal they are to bear; they changing her guns, from twenty-eight nine pounders, to thirty twelve and nine pounders, as before mentioned, might be too constant

tant and top-heavy a weight on her decks, when she came to labour in a storm.

The people of the sea-coast of Cornwall have for some years undergone the censure of being savage devourers of all wrecks, that strike against their coasts. How weak a creature is general belief, the dupe of idle fame! Humanity never exercised its virtues more conspicuously than in this instance, in the inhabitants and people of St. Ives. They flocked down in numbers to our assistance; and, at the risque of many of their own lives, saved ours. Mr. Walker would not be prevailed upon to quit the ship, till he had seen the sick lifted thro' the cabin windows into the boats; bidding all, without distinction, provide for themselves, as he was capable of swimming: but he was himself, at last, lifted out by two of the townsmen, strangers to him, who went upon the wreck to bring him off.

It would be tedious to paint all the sensible expressions of thanks and gratitude, in the people to Providence for this their great deliverance: I shall mention one for the whole, as the most particularly observed by the rest. The surgeon, who had been on board, was a gentleman of good wit and understanding; but unhappily remarkable for too loose a neglect of duty to that being he had always sense enough to revere. In all the former scenes amidst others concerned, he shewed so little sense of feeling at any change of state which mortality was subject to, that his lighter flights of humour seemed still wholly to possess him. At the very last consultation, when every other mind was attentive to the highest objects, he having fixed his eyes very stedfastly on a person opposite to him, who had but one arm, broke out into a violent fit of laughing; and being reprimanded for his mirth, so out of season, "I am only laughing," says he, to think, how awkward that fish there will swim with but one fin." This gentleman getting on shore, whither the ship, as by the word of Providence, had just lived to deliver them before her own dissolution, and being touched certainly at such interposition

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on in his favour, threw up an eye to heaven, in the presence of the whole company, that sparkled with a fire more than commonly human, crying out, "O God! to whom, for these seven years, I have not lifted up my eye or heart in prayer, I now presume to thank you. Let me never forget this thy mercy, or my duty more."

When they came into the town, every body's house was open to them, in all the offices of assistance: but above all other instances which could be given of the generosity of the place, gratitude must here pay her greatest debt, in remembering John Stevens, Esq; whose unwearied activity, liberality, and prudence, in aiding, befriending, and directing our affairs, are without parallel, except in other like actions of his own. He took Mr. Walker to his own house; where he lived with him during his stay in the place: he was, in short, in every circumstance from Mr. Walker down to the lowest man, the father of redress to every grievance. When we mention this gentleman as most distinguishable among many others, we do not forget to acknowledge the debts of obligation we owe to the mayor, the magistrates, and other gentlemen of the town, whose invitations, readiness to serve, and other acts of civility, rendered them ever worthy the best report of their deserving. The first night Mr. Walker made all his officers sleep under their arms, as he did the like, to be in readiness, in case of any attack against the wreck; and accordingly so it happened, for in the night the miners came down, and were setting about sharing the wreck amongst them. At the very first alarm, the mayor himself was up and a party of the town, who went in arms with Mr. Walker against them, dispersed the croud, and took two of the men prisoners: these are a people the civil power are scarcely answerable for, at least for their good manners, as they live almost out of the districts of human society, and may be said to be no visible inhabitants of the earth, tho' they act in the world. The time during their stay, which was upwards of three weeks, was solely employed in

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taking care of the wreck ; and thro' the assistance of the afore said gentlemen and others, every thing and matter was taken care of with as much and more exactness, than if the wreck had lain at the shore of Dartmouth, or the doors of the proprietors ; and a great part was saved to a considerable amount. Mr. Walker did not forget to remind his officers in the duty he had before advised to them, of returning thanks to that preserver, to whom they owed so great a deliverance ; and the Sunday after went, at the head of all his officers and most of the crew, to church, where public thanks were returned for the late great and divine mercies they had received ; and the clergyman was so interested in the case, as to preach a very excellent sermon suitable to the occasion. Mr. Walker then went to Dartmouth.

Thus ended this unfortunate cruise, protracted for upwards of three months, by various perplexities and accidents, in which Mr. Walker was to take his trial as in success. I have not yet made mention of the cause of the George tender quitting the Boscawen, which perhaps was one of the wickedest steps ever taken of the kind. The captain of her designedly went off with her to Ireland, and there sold the greater part of her wines. He indeed returned with her afterwards to Dartmouth, with some vague excuses for his behaviour. This action also shews itself the more wicked, as, in their consequent distress, they might all have perished, for want of the assistance he could have given.

This was the only cruise in which I did not attend Mr. Walker, having been detained at Dartmouth thro' illness ; but I was present at the interviews between him and his late owners, who received him with marks of esteem, and a joy equal to what had been the claim of the best success. One of the first questions Mr. Walker asked was, whether they were insured ? The answer was, No, nor ever would be in a ship where he commanded. They further offered, and which was, at several times after repeated, to build him a new forty gun ship from the stocks, af-

ter his own model and directing; but his affairs at this present hurried him to London.

The End of the First VOLUME.

V O L. II.

C H A P. I.

The fitting out the Royal Family privateer; accident to the Prince Frederick; escape from three French men of war; separation from the Princess Amelia; meeting the West-India fleet; taking a French tartan under the fortifications of Saffia; complaint made to the court of London, and some observations thereon.

SOME gentlemen of London (John Casmajor, Valentine Comyns, Edward Ironside, Esqrs. and Mr. Parnell Neville, all since deceased, William Belcher, Israel Jalabert, and James Talbot, Esqrs.) in the year 1746 fitted out a fleet of private ships of war, called the Royal Family, under the command of Mr. Walker; giving him the entire direction of the same, as to its equipment, and the appointment of all the officers. Captain Talbot's success in two of the said ships, which he had before commanded, engaged him and the rest to increase the number under the present trust. This fleet was fitted out at Bristol, and by a few delays in the managers, took up near three months, before it was compleated. The greater part of which time Mr. Walker was present, giving directions; as almost every thing depended upon his management; and had he been the first principle of motion, the machine had kept better time.

In one article, indeed, of our equipment, we had not the least difficulty, that of getting men : which is generally a cause of delay, and the most material business of preparing such expeditions. For most of the officers and men of the Boscawen continued close adherents to Mr. Walker ; and the report of so great a private fleet to be fitted out, and the character and known success of the commander, had drawn together such numbers of sea-men to offer themselves, that near as many were refused as would have manned a like number of ships ; though at this time there was a great scarcity of hands, both in the government's and merchants service. Which circumstance seems to strengthen the opinion, I have often received from the willingness of our common sea-men to serve in private ships of war, that, " Was our navy put on a more favourable footing in some particulars, very easy to be complied with, there would always be a sufficiency of men ready offering to the service." For certainly there are equal hands in these kingdoms, with the assistance of neutral sea-men, who flock to us in time of war, under a proper disposition of them, at one and the same time, to man the whole fleet of England, and navigate the trade of the merchants.

Amidst these preparations, a circumstance appeared very irregular in the outset ; which begot a dissatisfaction in some foreboding minds, as it assailed the confidence they before had in the managers. This was, that all the time of the fleet's being fitted out, no copy of the articles, which were to be executed between the managers, the officers, and men, was sent down for the perusal and inspection of those concerned : and though, at the repeated desire and request of several of the captains and officers, Mr. Walker had frequently wrote up to London for it, yet it could not be obtained ; till within a few days before the ships were prepared to sail, the articles themselves were sent down, ready ingrossed and signed by the managers. In these articles, besides allowing themselves five per cent. upon the whole, as managers,

nagers, they had also made themselves agents to the officers and men, with a further allowance of five per cent. for such new office. This particular of the agency was so much disrelished by most of the people, that many of the officers and others absolutely refused to serve any longer, and offered up their commissions. But Mr. Walker, who had now compleated the fleet, was eager to be at sea; and who, from his general good opinion of mankind, (which known part of his character proceeds from the too common error of honest men judging others from themselves) had really conceived well of his managers, publicly expressed such his particular confidence in their honour, and turned advocate for the articles; saying, "That, whilst we disputed about the agency, we perhaps lost an opportunity of finding the fortune." By this and other persuasions, giving high encomiums on the great merit of our owners in fitting out so fine a set of ships, he at last prevailed, that every body in compliance signed the articles, tho' far from being convinced of the equity of them.

The fleet set sail April 28, 1746, from King's-road, Bristol, on a cruise of eight months. The ships were

			Guns.	Men.
King George,	George Walker,	Com.	32	300
Prince Frederick,	Hugh Bromedge,	} Capts.	26	260
Duke,	Edward Dottin,		20	260
	formerly first lieutenant to the Boscawen,			
Princess Amelia,	Robert Denham,		24	150
			102	970

Crowds of spectators, as such a fleet had not appeared before in these parts, acclaimed aloud a pleasure at our appearance; which was ecchoed in joy within

within the breast of the men ; and returned in salutes of our guns from every ship. But this great joy and fine appearance were overcast by two accidents, which damped the first and lessened the latter ; for about twelve o'clock the Prince Frederick, through the carelessness or supposed ignorance of the pilot, ran ashore on the Welsh-hook, and made signals of distress. The tide running very strong in the channel, as it usually does, prevented the commodore sending any assistance : but at four o'clock he came to an anchor with the Duke and Princess Amelia, under the Flat-holmes. In the evening captain Bromedge's barge coming on board, acquainted the commodore that the Prince Frederick had received so much damage by her late accident, that it was thought she would not be able to proceed. Whereupon the commodore went himself on board the Prince Frederick, and finding she made eighteen inches water in an hour, he ordered her back, and sent an express of the accident to the managers for their directions to him, whether to proceed, or wait her repair.

Whilst the ships lay thus waiting for an answer from the managers, the other accident happened on board the Duke : which was a very rash and passionate murder committed by one of the common men on another, by stabbing him in the breast, thro' an ill-grounded resentment for some slight affront conceived. Mr. Walker having had intelligence of the accident, went on board the Duke. The men, taking upon them to execute what had been strict justice in itself, though by no means legal in them, had hanged the murderer by the two wrists to the yard-arm, where the poor wretch was roaring in great agonies. Mr. Walker immediately ordered him down ; and taking the depositions of the evidence, sent the deceased, the criminal, and the two principal witnesses, to a magistrate at Bristol. The fellow was afterwards tried and hanged.

May the 3d the express returned from the managers, with directions to put to sea without the Prince Frederick, who was obliged to go into dock. Signal being

being again made for weighing anchor, and orders left with captain Bromedge in what station to join us, we set sail on our cruise. Our first station was ordered to be between Cape St. Vincent in Portugal and Cape Cantin, on the coast of Barbary, till a certain day.—May 10, the island of Scilly bearing S. E. by E. distant seven leagues, the Princess Amelia being a great way a-stern, the commodore made signals for shortning sail till she got up. Whilst we lay-to for her, we saw three sail to the south-west quarter, standing to the eastward. Upon which, signal being given to chase, and all things ordered for engaging, we came so near them towards evening, as to discover they were ships of war of great force, at least sixty or seventy guns each; therefore apprehending their slow making from us a pretence of fear to decoy us into their reach, as such it really was, we at once hauled our wind and left off the chase. On which they all hoisted French colours, tacked about, and stood after us. The Princess Amelia being, as was observed, greatly a-stern, it blowing very hard, and night coming on, signal was made for her to alter her course, and shut up her lights: which she obeyed. But we and the Duke, who kept close company with us, being so much nearer to the enemy, apprehended ourselves in great danger of being over-taken. The commodore ordered us and the Duke, by signals, to keep on our course and set up our lights, which seemed a contradictory conduct to the orders given the Princess Amelia; and, as we were closely pursued, could not fail of being reprehended in most of our judgments. But it now growing dark, the commodore called the carpenter to him, and making him fix a step in a large bathing tub he had for his own use, and set a pole upright in it like a mast, he put into it a quantity of ballast, and ordered him to nail a tarpaulin closely over it; then hanging a lantern and light to the top, he let it down over the stern into the sea. We then shut up all our lights and altered our course, as did the Duke also. At day-break we saw nothing of the three French men of war, but

missing.

missing also the Princess Amelia, we imagined that she must have fallen in with the enemy, and struck to them. This finesse, which was certainly the cause of our preservation, might, I think, be improved into common practice on the like occasions, by all ships who run such danger, taking with them a few small boats or skiffs, such as fishermen drag after them with their live fish: for if the light exists but for a few minutes, the purpose is answered.

The same morning, about six o'clock, we saw in the south-east quarter a large fleet of ships, whom the commodore imagined to be a fleet, which the aforesaid men of war were convoying: and, as he supposed, had lost. We instantly bore down to them; and upon coming near, perceived several large ships of force also with them: but as they were all to leeward, Mr. Walker ordered our course to be continued, saying, that though he might not have leave given him to burn, sink, and destroy, according to his orders; yet he would venture to pick and chuse as many of them as he could man. At nine o'clock, we came up with them. They proved to be our own West-India and Newfoundland fleet, with several East-India ships, under convoy of the Milford and Rye men of war. Mr. Walker went on board his majesty's ship the Rye, to acquaint the captain of our having seen three French men of war the day before, and to inform him of the latitude in which we imagined them to be. And here I must take notice of a circumstance relating to the misconduct of our own merchant-men, in the great disregard they pay in general to the orders of their convoy, of which this is a particular instance: Mr. Walker having observed to the captain of the Rye, that had he himself been a French man, or they a French fleet, he could have made any number of them prizes, and brought them off in spite of the convoy. The captain made answer, "True, sir, and what censure would have fallen on his majesty's officers? and yet let me do all I can, these masters of common vessels, who sail better than the rest, will keep to windward: for as to firing

at them, I have done it till I am tired, and may fire away every shot in the ship."

He then asked Mr. Walker, "if his intent was to keep company?" But Mr. Walker answered, that "as there was no enemy in sight, nor any certainty of meeting one, such delay might be imputed by his owners wrong in him." However, the Indiamen were ordered by the captain of the Rye, to hoist up pennants to appear as men of war, and to form themselves and sail in a line of battle. And Mr. Walker, having given this necessary information, took his leave; and afterwards plyed to windward of the straggling merchant-men, and by firing obliged them to bear down under the lee of their convoy. The commodore of the Rye and Mr. Walker then parted with mutual salutes of guns; and we afterwards had the pleasure to hear that they all arrived safe.

From this time to the 31st of May, the weather continued very hazy. In which interim we gave chase to several sail; but, they either by having the wind of us, or by the power of the night, got clear. And here we found our feather clipped, wanting the swiftness of the Boscawen, who in comparison to our present ships, was as a bird of prey to the labouring wing of a pursued inferior. However, we had a stout and well built ship under us, which was of equal use in its place. We constantly made the signal of the Princess Amelia, to all the ships we saw, which we could imagine might be she, hoping to have met her; but not being answered by any, concluded her, as we before said, fallen into the enemy's hand. Being now come upon our station, off Cape Cantin, we saw an armed sail off the bay of Saffia, on the coast of Barbary, who hoisting French colours immediately run into the road. We then stood in after her, running as far as seven fathom water, and fired some shots; at the same time the fortification returned the fire we intended at her pretty smartly upon us. But the commodore being unacquainted with the bay, and not daring to venture in any further for fear of shallow water, made his signal to our other ships to sail off,

off, which we likewise did, as if we meant intirely to quit her. When it was dark, he again brought-to with the Duke and made signals for the captain and first lieutenant to come on board: this was in order to consult about cutting her out; for as he well knew the emperor of Morocco was then at war with the French, he did not imagine the fort meant to protect her from the English, with whom he was at peace, and concluded the firing from the fortification to have proceeded from mistake. Upon this presumption, three boats were ordered to be manned, with design to sound the bay close under shore, and so to board her and cut her away. The boats received express orders, that when they came so near the enemy as to be perceived, they should make several false fires; which the enemy, should they be then lying on their small arms, might imagine so many combustible stink-pots to be thrown in upon them; and which in all probability would occasion them immediately to quit their decks. The command of this action was given to Mr. Riddle, the commodore's second lieutenant. Accordingly the boats set off, well officered and manned. About one o'clock we heard the report of a brisk firing from the bay, by which we judged, they had met with a sharp reception. And so it proved; for the enemy, lying on the watch, as was conjectured, received the boats with a well supported preparation, whilst the attack was as resolute on our side. Our boats hoping to surprize them, trusted in this their own after-thought, and neglected to light the false fires as were directed; but the moon rising, shewed them their mistake, and discovered them to the enemy, who being in expectation of them had time to get to their arms: for she was a French pollacre, with a letter of marque, having six carriage guns, eighty small arms, and about twenty men. Mr. Riddle was at one fire very strangely wounded in two several places by a ball entering in at his temple above the cheek bone and out of the other, and by another ball passing in at his shoulder quite under the skin and flesh, out of the opposite one, upon which he instant-

ly fell. Yet nothing dismayed, the rest boldly pressed forward to board sword in hand, which was at last effected; the men in the ship firing their volleys very thick, and the forts continually playing on our boats at the same time. At half an hour after four in the morning, the firing ceased; whereupon we made our signals for the boats, and were answered by them: and at three o'clock we saw them returning with the vessel; which was the *Postilion d'Nantz*, burthen about ninety tons, bound to Cadiz. Several men were wounded on the side of the enemy, and the only accident received on ours, besides Mr. Riddle's wounds, was that of one man losing an hand as he boarded, which was entirely cut off at a blow; as to Mr. Riddle's wounds, they were afterwards to an admiration perfectly cured; and his friends have the pleasure of his being at present living, to shew the indisputable tokens of our report.

Upon the commodore's examining the condition of the prize, and finding her, upon information, to be a very prime sailer, he appointed her as a tender, in the room of the *Princess Amelia*; and calling her the *Prince George*, manned her with thirty hands, and gave the command to Mr. John Green, his first lieutenant. It may be asked, why this late business was put under the conduct of the commodore's second lieutenant, and the first rewarded by it? When the resolution was taken by the commodore, the first lieutenant gave his opinion, that it would be better to wait till day-light, but offered to go. "Sir, says Mr. Walker, though I have no reason to doubt your prowess, yet I never will send a man upon an expedition to which he has any objection:" and so gave the command to Mr. Riddle. On our returning with success, he shewed his respect to Mr. Green by giving him his due place or rank; and Mr. Riddle did not go unrewarded, as will be hereafter shewn. But we must first recover him of his wounds.

Mr. Walker took the usual care of his prisoners; and afterwards, June 6, meeting with a Dutch snow (the *Peace*) coming from Sallee, and bound to Santa Cruz

Cruz in Barbary, the captain of the French prize requested to be put on board the Dutch ship, representing to Mr. Walker, that he believed he should be able at the last place, with the assistance of his friends, to ransom the cargo. This Mr. Walker complied with; and he was accordingly put on board. In consequence whereof, on the 9th we stood in to Santa Cruz, and in the evening a boat came off with two letters to the commodore, "That as the Postilion de Nantz was taken under the cannon of Saffia, they thought her not a legal prize; and therefore would not ransom her cargo." The commodore's chief aim of coming to the place was only to serve the unfortunate captain: he had no time to lose in argument; and immediately made sail out of the bay, having first discharged and sent a-shore all the prisoners, with their cloaths, &c. except three of the men whom he reserved in order to condemn the vessel.

We some years after found, that a complaint of this matter had been made by the Moors to the court of London: it being alledged a custom with them, to receive and protect any ship of what nation soever, which comes to trade or traffick with them; though at the same time in war with the country to which it belongs. This was a circumstance, at the time not known to Mr. Walker, nor is it in fact a real truth, but depends mostly on their arbitrary humour, as occasion suits. The affair, as it has been said, was considered as attacking an enemy's ship in the port of its enemy; else Mr. Walker (as I am confident from a knowledge of his prudence and disposition, and as I have heard him declare, which is proof sufficient) would not have committed the least act of hostility, or infringement on the lowest power in friendship with us, to have gained the richest prize upon the seas; or risked doing a violence to any of his country's treaties. The great danger such actions are liable to, of misleading the opinions of the people at home, by the false representations of things abroad, being matters of uncertainty, ought to make our officers in such command more than ordinary cautious: as a mo-
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ment's rashness, for a little lucre to a few particulars, may be the cause of evils running down, like a distemper in the blood of posterity, and an expence of millioned treasures to the nations on both sides. Such rencounters abroad are generally acted in a disputed latitude, and are a latitude of dispute to their owners at home ; whilst king, minister, and people must take their words, at the first instance, of the hair-breadth distances in debate, or measurements at sea. Restitution is then the word, before the right is proved. At the partial disappointment, the Antigallic nation is told to cry revenge ; and if the minister still keeps his temper, a Cromwell's ghost is wanted to take upon him the new war. Such proceedings ought to stand in example like rocks to be avoided, in the conduct of all future sea-men ; and I am the more explicit in delivering my opinion herein, as I know some persons have endeavoured to throw a censure on Mr. Walker's behaviour, upon account of this preceding capture at Saffia. However, the restitution here could be but very trifling : the chief of the cargo being but forty tons of bees-wax, powder, and war-like implements, bound to Cadiz, the whole computed at but 1784*l.* 14*s.* 5*d.* nor did Mr. Walker know of the complaint, till he was absolutely a prisoner in the King's Bench, unable to make enquiry or application, to set matters, if needed, to rights. But when Envy cannot get herself lifted up to stand with Fame upon her pedestal, it sets Calumny to work at the pillar, to throw the envied statue down.

C H A P. II.

Alteration of our station ; meeting the Prince Frederick ; landing at Tercera ; and the entertainments there.

THE certain day in Mr. Walker's orders being expired, we were now to change our cruise for the remaining part of the first four months to a new station : viz. between the western isles and banks

banks of Newfoundland. Accordingly, July the fifth, plying off Tercera, one of the western isles, with an intent of watering, we saw a sail to the eastward, bearing down upon us, as willing to come to an engagement. Discovering her to be a ship of force, we soon cleared, and got all hands to quarters: but on coming up, how great our joy, she proved to be the Prince Frederick, captain Bromedge, whom we left to repair at Bristol. Captain Bromedge also brought the news, that the Princess Amelia, being chased by three French men of war, had strained herself in carrying too much sail; and sprung a leak; but that she had got clear of them, and being obliged to bear away for Lisbon, had made that port half full of water. This account he received off Cape Cantin by a schooner, which she had on purpose sent express to that station; and though not a very favourable one, yet it was accepted by us as good news, in comparison to the total loss of her, which we had supposed; as it compleated the joy of our knowing our whole family was yet alive.

We stopped at Tercera to water, where our new tender the Prince George was of great use to us: for the watering at that place is attended with great difficulty to ships of any bigness, and with some danger even to small ones. Wherefore the commodore sent her to anchor in the road, there to take in her loading of wood and water, whilst our ships in the mean time lay waiting off and on, in the Offing.

The commodore going on shore for a few necessities, some of us went with him to see the island, being a place little frequented by strangers, perhaps on the account of the danger for shipping. It is nevertheless blessed with a prolific fertility in various commodities, as wines, corn, fruits, lemons, oranges, and olives; and by its commodious situation for trade, might answer the hopes of the adventurous. Nature has also poured her greatest beauties on it, which again are not left neglected or unadorned by art. It is inhabited by the Portugueze, and has some magnificent buildings and squares in its little metropolis,

polis, being a place of residence of several of the Portugueze noblemen and other families of distinction. It has also an English consul. The commodore, waiting on the consul, was by him the same evening, introduced to several of the noblemen; and as there was next day to be a consecration of a church, he was by them invited to see the ceremony. The consul, upon our taking leave, asked the commodore, if he had any musicians on board? and said, their assistance at the said ceremony would be taken as a great compliment, for the place had very few such of the degrees of perfection. As the commodore was a lover of music, he had a finer band than perhaps ever were together in one ship, viz. two horns and two flutes, which had been in the king of Denmark's service at Copenhagen, and had been with us in the *Boscawen*, as before mentioned; to which he had added a black drummer, and an hand from England of great execution on the large or Welsh harp, an instrument not much in use, but excelled by none, as also a performer on the violin who was reckoned the second in England, but whose bad circumstances obliged him to put himself in this service. He sent them all, immediately on his coming on board the same evening, to the consul's, that they might join in the rehearsal that evening, ordering them to take changes of dress for next day. We had also two of our young gentlemen volunteers, so remarkably great on the violin, that if they disliked the profession, they had certainly made it their study. To these also the commodore gave the offer of going, which they accepted. The next day, he and some of the captains, principal officers, and gentlemen of the four ships coming on shore, some of the noblemen and gentlemen of the church met him; and, in acknowledging his civility of the preceding evening, gave intelligence of himself and his commission; which he did not before know of, "That he was sent by their new saint to assist them on the happy occasion." The procession to the church was very grand. All the noblemen and other persons of distinction, priests,

jesuits,

jesuits, and gentlemen walking, and some equipages attending. When we came to the church, which was very magnificent, large, and lofty, being (to our surprize in this æra of taste) in the Gothic stile, richly ornamented, we were conducted to a place prepared for our reception: and, except as to the performance of some offices in the ceremony of consecration, which could not but give umbrage to the free born reason of Englishmen, unsubdued by priesthood or church-superstition, the divine service was very exalted, and awe-striking to the heart. So that to use the words of a French author, "If heaven did not approve the justness of the worship, it could not be displeased at the endeavour." I think it is Monsi. St. Evremont, who makes an observation on this subject, between the different manners of worship in the Catholicks and Presbyterians, "That the first do every thing they think will please, and the latter are tender of doing any thing they fear may displease." To which, as an observer of the present performance, I will here venture to add, That by the overdoing of the one, upon these principles, and the too little ceremony of the other, the medium is left, as the properest, temperate state between the two extremes, to be filled up by some just borrower of their merits and corrector of their faults: in which character the present Protestant might with some easy and happy alteration stand. The musical performance was certainly much indebted to the various change of instruments our few hands added to its harmony: as the same performers on the horns were occasionally equally powerful on the trumpet, and the fluters on the hautboys; which sometimes in separate pieces, oftentimes joined by our three violins and the new organ, which was a very fine one, and accompanied by voices numerous and perfect; composed a concert truly grand. Our black drummer also performed with great earnestness and attention, putting on a face of self-significancy and general admiration. Which so worked inward in a real sense of feeling approbation, that we may say he got here a new religion; for he never

never after would be perswaded to think otherwise, but that the Tercera religion was the best ; because, as he said, it was *most worship*. This is as strong a proof as we can have from nature, that, in argument of reformation, it is the errors of doctrine we ought to contend with, not the ceremony of worship ; which to make it serious to the impressionable mind, cannot be too solemn, or too much assisted by every decency of dress, which makes it reasonably more so.

After the consecration was over, the time would not permit of any other invitation of repast being given us, except a most elegant regale of sweet meats, fruits, and wines ; for we were hastened from hence to another entertainment, the sight of their bulls, commonly called a bull-feast. This was performed in the largest square in their town, built round with stately houses, where the people of fashion resided. Most of the houses had large balconies which were on this occasion hung round with tapestry and other ornaments ; and filled with gentlemen and ladies, all in high dress, which made a very great appearance. There was a particular balcony appointed for us. And as the entertainment was a new one, we could not but be obliged at the notice taken of us in such singular accommodation.

There were three bulls, and to each a cavalier, who were persons of distinction, attended by footmen of an inferior quality, and each combat was single. The horsemen were armed with a strong lance, and the footmen with small spears and darts, and with loose cloaks or pieces of scarlet cloth in their hands. At the sound of a trumpet the bull was turned up through a kind of a trap door, from a ground-chamber wherein he was housed, into the square, at the inside of railings. And coming out from his cell furious, and mad with the shouts of the spectators, the horsemen advancing, he generally makes up to him, if not, he is provoked and instigated to a madness or courage by the darts and other insults of the footmen. The cavalier always shews the great skill in horsemanship, in the number of circumvolutions

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he makes to avoid the blow of the enemy. Sometimes he is so fortunate as to kill him at the first thrust of his lance, aiming mostly at the back of the neck where the spinal vein runs: which if cut through or wounded, the bull, as is the case with all other animals, falls at once lifeless to the ground: and this is the highest victory can be gained over him. At which, and at all other feats of gallantry or horsemanship in the combat, the ladies and other spectators signify their approbations by waving out their handkerchiefs. The conqueror always immediately rides up to the most considerable personages in the place, or some admired fair-one, to pay his devoirs to them; which are always received with great returns of applause. Sometimes, if he miss his stroke at the bull, the bull is victor both of man and horse; and often kills both, or either; but generally the horse, ripping open his very bowels: though; if the cavalier be unhorsed, the attendants on foot, who keep on each side of him, interpose; and by throwing their darts at the bull, draw his pursuit after some one of them. Some of the darts have lighted squibs at the end, which firing and bursting, as they stick in his hide, provoke him to such anger, as makes it terrible to see and hear. In this exercise, the footmen are surprizingly expert and nimble; but if the bull be too quick upon any of them, the person so attacked throws his cloak on his horns, just at the stoop of his head: in which position for his stroke the creature always shuts his eyes; and then with admirable agility steps aside. Sometimes, though the footman miss his horn, yet if he but lets the cloth fall before him, the bull always stops to engage that; and will tols it, if permitted, for a considerable time. This is a knowledge, with which, and a presence of mind, a person by accident attacked by any of these creatures, may with ease escape. Having seen the performance here, I some years ago at Essex, escaped safe from one of them, who made at me alone in a field, by opening an Indian coloured handkerchief, and letting it fall. However by the great nimbleness and

and sudden turnings of the creature, many of the most expert in this sport are taken by surprize; and are often killed or miserably wounded, being sometimes tossed by his horns in the air upwards of fifteen feet high. If one cavalier be dismounted, another engages him, thus more provoked, and another: and if he holds the conquest over them, the footmen then begin a new attack with their spears, until he falls a victim to as cruel a diversion, except our English throwing at cocks, as ever gave entertainment to the human attention; especially that of the tenderer part of our species, the fair-sex.

This diversion over, Mr. Walker, and his officers received an invitation from the lady-abbess of the nunnery there, to pay her a visit before his departure, if possible, that evening. The message was well understood, she being desirous of hearing our musicians, having received a report of them from the priests in the morning. Mr. Walker very obligingly went, and carried us all with him. We were conducted into a very lofty and spacious hall, divided a-cross in the middle, with rails finely wrought, reaching up almost to the ceiling, all of silver. In the hall were some large scripture-paintings of great expression, some bustoes of curious workmanship, and a cornice with carvings of great boldness and design. A carpet was spread and chairs placed for Mr. Walker and his company near the rails, with stands for the performers: a chair was set at the inside for the lady abbess and benches ranged behind for the other ladies of the nunnery, raised in the manner of a theatre. The lady-abbess came forward to the rails, and with great address, expressing herself in French, complimented our visit as an honour done to her and her house: she then took her seat, two nuns in veils standing by her all the time, one on each side; behind her the young nuns and other votaries placed themselves in gradual rows one above another, some of them of exquisite beauty. The concert began on our side, which being, to say truth, performed with excellent mastership, and greatly aided in sound by the

the well-toned eccho of the hall, gave such rapture to the fair hearers, that from the lady herself to the youngest fair one their expressions of pleasure declared their sensations of it to be near an ecstasy. On their parts between the intervals, several of them played their guittars, alone, and accompanied with others; and some of them sang. Between the acts, salvers of sweet-meats, of the greatest variety and fancy, were served to us, and wine; all of their own making, very rich and of grateful scent and flavour. As the lady-abbess spoke both French and Latin very fluently, she kept up an easy conversation with us, in which she paid the English great compliments for their high deservings in this world; but prayed much for their souls in the next. This kind of complimentary concerts were repeated and returned from the one to the other for near three hours, and no such space of time could have been more pleasingly spent; when the lady-abbess, after giving us her benediction and paying us her thanks, retired with as much grace as she came on. The rest of the nuns or young votaries run to various other gates, at the outer sides of the hall, under a piazza or cloisters, where each or most, being equally skilled in speaking as their mistresses, (languages being a peculiar study with them) entered with great ease and familiarity into conversation with most of our officers: which naturally turning on compliments to their beauty, and true expressions of pity at such happiness as they had power to bless mankind withal, being thus cloistered from the world, they as tenderly made love in their strain, but more in the Platonic than rational system. In short, their expressions of brotherly and sisterly love, and of their marriages with Jesus, were neither more nor less than the very phrases and plan of thoughts at present used by our new set of methodists. They even proceed so far in this extravagance as to confess real passions; and particularly, one lady gave a letter to one of our officers, to be delivered to an English gentleman, with whom, from some like opportunity as this, she had
fallen:

fallen in love. As we did not know where to find the lover, and had a curiosity of reading it, it was afterwards opened, and from first to last had been a flower in a discourse of enthusiastic oratory. I have since seen an ingenious treatise, intitled, *The Methodists and Papists compared*, and as I read it, could verify the truth of most of its opinions in this short experience. At which time also, I could not help drawing the conclusion, that all extremes in religion, as in other things, come round to the same point. But what to me seemed most remarkable, was, that every one of them declared with plausible sincerity their approbation of their present state, without a desire to change. How long they would have continued their likings to it, had our young officers the liberty of more frequent visits, I will not pretend to make a judgment of; but I cannot help thinking such methods of robbing our sex of so many of the choicest gifts of Heaven to it, looks like the contrivance or diabolical scheme of some enemy to the species. And they, who would argue otherways, must first go, after a three months cruise, and converse with them at a grate, before I pay any attention.

After such a variety of amusements, and living all day only on sweet-meats, we were glad of accepting Mr. Consul's invitation to supper. Whilst we were there, a couple of gentlemen from the jesuits, came commissioned to invite us to their college the next day. At this time a gentleman of the island, a Franciscan, was in company: the business of whose order is to beg for alms to give again away to the poor. Another plan copied by our new imitating order, and doubtless meritorious! where people are not proper judges of their own charity, and provided these commissioners turn out good agents, and exceed not their spiritual commission or tythes of ten per cent. This gentleman, perceiving our willingness to visit the Jesuits college, as soon as their backs were turned, bid us take care not to give them an opportunity of making our wills. Our ignorance of his meanings gave him a scope to entertain us with much humour,

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of which he was a perfect master, for the greater part of the night, in giving us an account of their various tricks and devices made use of to gain people's consent in their last moments for leaving the greater parts of their fortunes from their families to them. At which time a nod, or contrived bob of the black man's head, is a sufficient indication of an assent, and as good in law as a regular sealing and delivery. This tell-tale wit, however, shewed us, that whatever charity these several orders of their church pretend, they have very little for one another. It would be loitering in our history to keep the reader longer at Tercera. Next day, after paying a visit to the college, where our reception was every way agreeable; and where we were shewed some curiosities, our time of watering was compleated; for business went on at the same time with pleasure. We then set sail with our fleet, again made perfect as to the number and order of our ships.

C H A P. III.

The losing company of the Prince George tender in a chase; landing at the island of Flores; meeting with two of our East-India men, and arrival at Lisbon; the badness of our provisions; the method of taking turtle.

ON our cruise off the western islands, July the twentieth, the Prince Frederick made signal of seeing some strange ships: we gave chase, and in a few hours after, saw plainly eight sail, who crouded from us as fast as they could. In this chase, we lost sight of the Prince George. When we came up with the sternmost ship, which was the largest, she proved to be a Dutch man of war of forty-four guns from Curosoe to Amsterdam, with seven merchantmen in convoy. The captain could not be perswaded but that there was a Dutch war with France, having had letters from Holland, as he said, of three months date, to such import, which was the reason
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of his making from us, imagining us to be French. It was six days after this, before we saw any thing of our tender, at which time she came in sight, making signals of wanting to speak with the commodore: she gave an account, that in the late chase in swaying or hoisting up her main-top mast, the rope gave way, by which accident the mast fell down perpendicular on the deck, and broke three of her beams. Upon this report, the commodore sent the carpenters on board; and, as it luckily proved moderate and fine weather, he at the same time employed all the boats, in carrying the water from the tender on board the ships; and gave directions to captain Green, that in case of a like chase and her springing her mast therein, which the commodore apprehended might be the consequence of the late accident, he should make to Lisbon. Accordingly so it happened: for on the thirty-first, spreading the sea as much as possible, we saw a sail to windward, the Prince Frederick distant about three leagues, and the chase about four, the Duke to leeward. In this pursuit we again lost sight of the Prince George. Captain Bromedge had the chase twice almost under his bowsprit, and perceived her to be a large snow, full of men; but she going exceeding well, put directly before the wind; and it being a dark night, she altered her course, and he lost sight of her. We waited two full days for the coming of the tender; but she not appearing in that time, we judged the accident had happened which we feared. We therefore, concluded her gone to Lisbon. On the twenty-fifth of August, we saw the island of Flores, and having been out five weeks since our last watering; and again wanting a supply, we went on shore, whilst our ships kept cruising in the Offing.

Here the commodore found it necessary to apply to some of the inhabitants to assist us in watering; for the sweet water is here separated from the salt by precipices, above which it is lodged, and over them falls, almost quite round the island, in sheets, that break upon the rocks, and form so many beautiful cascades below: so that the island seems a gathered

heap

heap of waters, or numberless fountains in the midst of the sea. The space for the fresh-water to run from the bottom of the precipices, till it meets the sea, is so short, that the salt-water immediately mixes with it wherever it has formed itself by a channel into a river, or to any depth, where a boat may be brought.

There being no English consul, Mr. Walker was obliged to address himself to some of the Portuguese gentlemen; who were so ready in ordering all necessary assistance, that Mr. Walker thought himself indebted in some return of compliment. Accordingly he gave an invitation to the gentlemen of the island to dinner, who were not very numerous, the whole island not being above five miles in length, and two in breadth. The entertainment was made on the sea-shore, under a rock near one of those beautiful cascades in prospect of the ships. And from the beauty of the situation, the ease of the reception, and musick accompanying (especially the horns, which were placed in such a chosen spot, as to be caught in sound by various ecchoes, one after another; that died away along the windings of the coast) it was perhaps the highest entertainment had been given in that place; and doubtless will help to confirm its inhabitants in their practice of civility, and in a readiness to oblige all succeeding ships of our country.

We soon got again on board; and in pursuing our cruise, at break of day on the twenty-eighth, we saw two large ships about three leagues distance. The commodore immediately ordered out the signals to chase; but there being very little wind, and the pursued ships going near as well as we did, the chase held for three days and two nights. We were mostly afraid of their getting from us in the night, by altering their courses; which the commodore perceived them endeavouring to do: wherefore, as there were but light breezes, he ordered out the boats to keep on them at all quarters, and to make false fires, for a direction for the whole fleet to keep in the chase. The second day, we could discern the painting of their

their ships to be of French fashion. The commodore then wished us joy of our fortunes being made, and the end of the cruise accomplished, acquainting us with a circumstance, not before known by us with any certainty, which was, "That the original intention of our owners in fitting out the fleet, was for us to have gone to a certain port, Ferdinando Nero; in where, as they had intelligence, two rich ships, the Henry and Hector, having at least a million on board, from the South Seas, were laid up for a certain season." But as the out-fit of our fleet had been prevented, by various delays (which we have remarked) beyond the day intended for our sailing on that expedition, we had, as he informed us, taken our different past stations, with a design to intercept them in their way home. He now said, "that the time and all other appearances corresponded to form a belief that the ships in sight were those spoke of." This account made us doubly alert and diligent; and in no time of his life was Mr. Walker seen to shew so much elevation at good fortune as now. But, alas! he did not know what the hearer will be equally surprised at being informed of; that he at the head of this fine fleet, and it together, were intended to be only the dupes of greater covetousness in some of our owners, who had only joined in this expedition with the others as equal privies in the intelligence, and had secretly sent two other ships to the above port, on another joint account, in which they had fewer parties to share with: who, in security of their own intention, to frustrate our destination, had in the outset of the fleet thrown many delays in its way; and so planned the commodore's orders as purposely to mis the above-mentioned ships. But as a disquisition of these particulars belong to a further relation, we shall defer them, with a detail of that expedition and its success, to such their more proper place. However, our commodore in the end made his cruise the better value to his proprietors, notwithstanding such treachery at home, to cut him off from this his birth-right of success. Without offence to state policies,
how

how just an epitome is this of the variance of intention sometime between the designs at home, and the orders to the commander abroad ! and what a hazardous commission does such a general or admiral often take, as to his credit with the people, if he does not succeed ; so that public censure mostly flies at random, but applause always hits the mark.

The third day, as we drew near our chase, they hoisted French colours ; but when we came so near, as for them to be assured what country ships we were, they pulled down their French colours, and hoisted English, and lay-to for us, as willing to speak with us. They were two of our own East India ships homeward bound, the Royal George, captain Thomas Field, and Scarborough, captain Philip D'Auvergne ; and had on account of the war, disguised and painted themselves in India, like French ships, the better to favour their coming home. The reader may conceive the great disappointment we here felt, in meeting them not an enemy ; but as our cruise was only about half run, and we were all in health and spirits, we entered on the other part of it with equal hopes, and trusted to better fortune.

These ships were going for Lisbon, there to wait for convoy ; and having great value on board, and the seas, in which they were, being very hazardous, as full of enemies, the captains offered the commodore, if he would convoy them thither, their joint bonds of one thousand pounds, to be paid by the company. He answered, " he would never take a reward for what he thought his duty to do without one. And, as the run of our own cruise now again demanded a resting place, he agreed to convoy them thither, with this proviso in regard to his owners, that, if in his way to that port, he should chance to take a prize, unassisted by them, they should waive the usual claim of share, which otherways they might make, as being in company." To this they instantly consented. Accordingly, we took them in convoy, and so continued for seventeen days, being the time before we got into Lisbon. In this interim we saw

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various sails, who perceiving us so large a fleet, never waited even to know who we were ; but taking advantage of the wind or the night, always got from us. For which reason our great appearance, as it was a safety to them, may be supposed some loss to us, in this part of the cruise. The captains Field and D'Auvergne were very kind in supplying us with water, which we wanted ; and we in return, afforded them every supply in our power. But as for presents (which, to speak justly to their generosity, were largely offered) Mr. Walker, to avoid all censure of receiving a reward, intirely refused them ; except two pieces of handkerchiefs for his pocket, and one of muslin for neckcloths, which after he got them, they would not accept of payment. All other things which we had from them afterwards, such as arrack, &c. were regularly insisted on to be paid for at the full prices. When they came to Lisbon, they gave the commodore a copy of a letter to read, which they told him they had wrote home, in recommendation of him to their company's notice, for his late services and behaviour. But such is the backwardness of this gentleman in not advancing himself to the favour which often waits to take him by the hand, that when I asked him, " Why he never applied to that board, during all his late necessities ? " he answered, " What do I deserve from them for doing only my duty ? " Yet as that public duty to his country was a private service to them ; pity ! that such bashfulness of asking a reward for his deservings should make the fault intirely his own ; that no notice of this action has been yet taken by such a set gentlemen, whose generosity, known to much less actions in their service, wants no encomiums or examples here.

We all got in safe to Lisbon. We here found that the Princess Amelia was condemned as incapable of service ; and that the managers agents there, Messrs. Mawman and Macey, had bought another vessel in her place, and fitted her up in readiness for us, which we called by the same name. Our Prince George tender was here also ; who, as was before apprehended,

ded, had sprung her mast in the chase, but was now repaired. We were detained some little time longer than was expected, in taking in new provisions; for those we had were become now so very bad, we could not use them, having begun to stink with us before the end of the first five weeks. Whereupon, survey was made of them, and they were condemned as every way perished and unwholesome, and thrown into the river. We imagined we had other provisions ready in the Princess Amelia, as she was our store-ship; but were informed, that those provisions also were become so rotten and infectious, that under the power of the same agents, they had been publicly condemned; and by order of the magistrates of health carried some distance to sea, to be thrown out there, lest of injuring the fish in the river Tagus. This was another circumstance of contrived management, at this time only imagined by us as a lucrative scheme in the agent who had been employed at Bristol; but will hereafter opened to be part of the aforesaid plot of deeper policy.

It may be wondered at, how our own healths were so well preserved in such bad circumstances; but the apparent means made use of by providence, were the general cleanliness in frequent washing our ships with vinegar (owing to Mr. Walker's own inspection of them for such purpose) and the immediate care taken of every man the first moment he shewed any signs of illness. To these we may add, besides the quantities of greens and fresh provisions carefully laid in at every opportunity of coming to port, the great plenty of turtle we found throughout our whole station in the midst of the sea; which, for the sweetness of their flesh and their eggs, are not inferior to those brought from the West Indies, though not of so large a size, the greatest here not weighing above half an hundred.

The method of taking them is this; the creature always sleeps at the top of the water, at which time lies motionless: we row to him in our boat, with little noise as possible, lest of awaking him, by a

sculler at our stern, as the strokes of the oars would make too great a sound in the water : for if he awake, he immediately strikes down and is irrecoverable to us. When we approach near him, a man stands at the head of the boat, with a long pole and hook at the head ; and putting it gently under him, turns him by a sudden rise of it on his back : in which situation he floats like a boat paddling, turning himself in a circle with his feet ; but has not the least further government of himself, and cannot descend. Thus we must acknowledge our obligations to providence ; who by its hand preserved us, and brought us through the designs or traps laid by men, who plot against or sport with the lives of their fellow creatures, in laying their schemes and evil inventions for gaining lucre and false happiness to themselves.

C H A P. IV.

The taking the Post Galley ; taking a register ship the Buen Consejo ; behaviour of the Spanish ladies ; a trifling story of a lap-dog and a monkey, yet with a moral ; the fleet's return to Lisbon.

OUR coming to Lisbon occasioned much enquiry concerning us among the merchants, upon seeing us so numerous a private fleet. Messrs. Mawman and Macey, a house of distinguished credit, were agents for the managers ; on them Mr. Walker had an unlimited credit. This and other recommendations gained us a respect in the place equal to what could be shewn to ships of any rank.

Mr. Walker contrived here a correspondence, by which he every week had intelligence of every thing which was then doing in Cadiz bay, of the ships there, and those expected home. This was executed by a spy, who plied over land from thence to Faro, which was a sea-port. For this purpose Mr. Walker bought here a small sloop, and added her to the fleet as a message-tender ; and calling her the Prince Edward, gave the command of her to Mr. Shaftoe.

one of his lieutenants. The number of our ships were now six. This last tender he sent regularly once a week from Lisbon to Faro, and afterwards from our station, as often as she could go and return.

When we were victualled and all things provided for the sea, we set out on the remaining half-part of our cruise, which was appointed to be in our former station, between Cape St. Vincent and Cape Cantin.

The pleasure of sailing in a fleet, tho' of more care and weight of duty to a commander, is unspeakably superior, in respect to all other officers, to that of being in a single ship. The very prospect of our consorts, the giving and repeating signals, the company of the lights at night, are an amusement to the mind or business to fancy, that makes the scene undisturbed by accidents, pleasingly agreeable. Besides the diversions kept alive in the one ship or the other, form a continued circle of entertainment; which pleasure is not always so freely enjoyed within the stricter disciplines of the navy. Certainly no set of ships ever sailed on duty in more order and obedience to command, or in better temper with themselves, than we did upon this present cruise. In which we continued the whole remaining time, without one accident to be charged either to ill luck or ill conduct: so that the whole appeared more a party of pleasure than of duty or service. And as the business productive of success, which was very great as to the value of the prizes, was performed in a few actions, we shall not rule ourselves to an exact account, or division of the intervening time; it being passed in chasing and examining various ships of various countries, wherein nothing very material or interesting happened.

The first prize was a Dutchman, bound from Corunna to Cadiz, called the Post Galley. Her cargo consisting of warlike stores; we sent her into Lisbon, where she was legally condemned; but her value did not much exceed seventeen hundred pounds.

Some few days following, we descried a large ship off Cape Cantin. Signal being made to chase, we

came up with her, and perceived her a stout ship of twenty guns; but she firing only one gun, struck to us before she thought we had time to make a return. She was a Spanish Register-ship, the *Buen Consejo*, bound from Cadiz to Buenos Ayres. By her bills of lading and invoices found on board, her value appeared to be upwards of sixty thousand pounds.

These Register-ships, like our East-India ones, are limited to a certain number under the direction of the king; and as their voyage is to the South-seas, or the different Spanish settlements in the West-Indies trading thereto, they are reckoned the richest ships of all Spain. The captain and supercargo having signified to Mr. Walker, that they were willing to ransom her, he resolved for that purpose to carry her into Lisbon; and being a prize of such value all our ships escorted her.

Among the prisoners, were several ladies and persons of great wealth and some distinction, going to their foreign settlements, with whom we had some conference, so as to see their manners and dispositions; for in all the conquests we made under Mr. Walker, we made so many acquaintances with those we conquered, as we never failed to introduce ourselves to their esteem and friendship.

We have mentioned a good deal of the French manners. The Spanish address certainly does not exceed theirs in courtesy or ceremony; yet it has as much civility and more natural ease. And as most persons who have seen both, are of my way of thinking in this particular, I may venture to say it has more agreeableness in it to an English palate, as it keeps up a dignity in the speaker, and looks more sincere. They seem to pay their politeness thro' respect to the person, to whom they think it due: whereas the French are ostentatiously lavish of theirs; shewing the gift to come more from the fund of their own generosity, than any seeming apprehension of another's merits.

The ladies and some of the gentlemen, their husbands, desired as a favour, that they might not be removed

moved out of their own ship. Mr. Walker granted their request, and ordered them the free use of all the wines, other necessaries, and every accommodation in the ship, as before; and at the same time sent his respects to them, that he would pay them a visit on board their own ship. This they imagined meant an intention in him of taking from them their things of best value; but when he came on board, his dress and attendants looking something above the rude idea they had conceived of an English sea-captain, they seemed in an astonished pleasure. However, some of the ladies, who had got their jewels, and other valuables packed up for him, by way of bribe for his mercy and civility, offered them to him. Mr. Walker, with a smile asked them, if the ship had so many supercargoes to give an account of her effects? they replied, "these little riches had been their own, but now were certainly his." He then desired, "they might still look on them in the first light, assuring them, that his officers and men had received his express orders, not to take one single article of apparel or property of any person's in the ship, from the highest class to the lowest; that he was come only to pay the compliments of a visit, due to them; and hoped they were so easy in themselves as to make him happy in their company." I must mention that in the first proposals of articles between the managers, officers, and crew, the commodore insisted, that no cloaths or private ornaments, as watches, swords, rings, &c. should be taken as plunder from any enemy whatever; and that he should have it in his power at all and every time to say what should be deemed plunder, and what otherwise. This power in himself gave him liberty of exercising the natural promptings of his own disposition on these and the like occasions.—It may be said, that we have laboured in giving remarks of two of the most polite people of Europe, taken only from the middle class, *viz.* from those mostly concerned in trade. In the first place, I take my remarks only from the opportunities given me; but in the next, I believe I shall find seconds

to my opinion, that such are the best objects from whence to draw the general character of the whole. They are the part of the people most conversant in men and things, of a general education above the vulgar, and yet removed from the exact tutorship of art or fashion; the politeness intimate to courts, being a lesson taught by policy in all governments alike; and the motions of the vulgar generally ruled by their national prejudices, peculiar to all countries. However, we shall have done with remarking, and speak only the facts as they happened.

Their behaviour on this occasion of his generosity was above the common manner of expressing themselves obliged. They endeavoured at making it entertaining, with a familiar sincerity of shewing their love to him, as their benefactor. Thus they brought to him the various specimens of their wines, preserved fruits, &c. giving him an account of each sort and qualities; as taking a pleasure in his becoming master of them. They introduced their voices, lutes, and histories of themselves. In all of which they were so significantly entertaining, that they fully answered his request, in making him happy in their company. Mr. Walker then invited them on board his ship, where we must allow him some vanity in setting out the liberality of English entertainment to foreigners: and, leaving it to the imagination of the reader, shall say no more of it here, nor introduce it in any other more proper place.

The next morning after this Mr. Walker's first visit, the prize's boat came on board. We imagined something extraordinary had happened; when we were told, they brought a present for the commodore: we all crowded to the sides, where a present from one of the Spanish ladies was produced of a favourite lap-dog.

Parturiunt montes, et nascitur ridiculus mus.

Great promises our expectations chouse:

A mountain labours, and is born a mouse.

At least a dog not much bigger than one.

The

The ladies of Spain have still a custom, which was once fashionable in England, of being particularly fond of the small spaniel-breed of lap-dogs, which are doubtless very beautiful creatures in their kind; and each fair one has her number of favourites. Among the croud that were shewn Mr. Walker for their great beauty and other perfections, was one in particular of exquisite shape and smallness, not being larger, tho' at its full growth, than to be hid between the palms of a person's hands. Having taken particular notice of this, as a curiosity in its kind, (more with design of pleasing its fair owner, who was likewise a beauty in her kind, than depriving her of any pleasure; but the best intended compliment may sometimes mistake its aim) the generous hearted mistress thinking it but a recompence for all his civilities, in her abundant complaisance, thought herself obliged in gratitude to send it to him as a present, tho' of more value than any other jewel in the ship; the interview of parting with it having been, as we were afterwards told, very affecting. The commodore could not but send back great acknowledgements of the obligation; and, as he imagined the young canine gentleman to be a little consumptive, he took particular care of his health in giving him goat's milk for breakfast, having a couple of goats aboard. But in private life, as in courts, favourites seldom agree too near each other; for having another favourite on board, a Chinese monkey of great humour and capacity, which had been given by some of the officers of the East-India men, the creature, whether out of envy at seeing such care taken of the other; or love of the little animal, the next day caught him up in his arms, at a time, when no body was in the cabin, and run with him up to the yard-arm; where he sat, keeping him in great submission by boxing him in the ear, whenever he dared to murmur at his state, and played a thousand antic tricks with him, to the laughter of the common men and pain of Mr. Walker, for fear of some fatal accident. The only hopes for its escape were, that he would throw it into the sea;

and the men, seeing the commodore anxious for its preservation, proposed getting out the boat, in such case to save it; and were absolutely getting it over, when, after various inducements offered to the monkey, to intice him down with his new charge, at last a China bason of milk being brought, and ordered to be set in his view on the deck, immediately the man-imitating creature came down, and bringing safe his little play-fellow, set it to the bowl to drink. But the dog, whether thro' the effects of his former fright, or grieving, in the loss of his more indulgent mistress, at the hard change of such treatment, who being herself unskilful in the art of rope-dancing, had never led him over such a dangerous tract; or whether hurt in one of the close hugs of affection, or reprimanding blows of the tutoring monkey, or without any accounting for it at all, grew sullen and died in a day or two after.

It may be censured as trifling in a history of military actions to introduce a story of a dog and monkey. I have before mentioned, that I mean only a conversation with my friends. The great freedom and pleasing ease of which consist in a variety of subjects and lesser digressions in the midst of serious. As therefore I take a pleasure in company, if I have at any time in this narrative entertained them, I hope to be favoured by their good nature in this endeavour also. Besides as my intent is to give the character of my friends, the particular parts are often better gathered from the lower incidents of life than the greater.

The death of Alexander, for such our little hero was called, threw our commodore into much concern of thought what excuse to make to the unhappy mistress; especially as she was in a few days to come on board, and would expect to have her former favourite introduced. Whatever some readers may think, I hope to be joined by others, in asserting it to be a point of great difficulty to manage. Mr. Walker held a consultation of the Spanish gentlemen aboard, who had seen the accident, all of whom owned its disastrous very difficult of remedy, and beyond their capacities

ties of relief. At length to put the living delinquent in the dead hero's place, was thought the only means of alleviating the grief that was known would flow ; for where a generous mind is raised to resentment, nothing so soon appeases it to forgiveness as putting the object of its anger within its power ; which should it here become a new favourite was also the surest way of forgetting the old. With this view Pug was sent a present in return, with a directed card to his new mistress, which was put into his hand as he entered the room, with these words in French : " I come to die if you decree it." All other faults being kept a secret, this raised on their side many arguments of enquiry about the meaning, which was too soon cleared up ; however Pug was kindly received, and he immediately exerted his station of private tutor to the whole family of dogs ; and being very soon necessary in his office, particularly in the art of fleaing, grew into great favour. Our chief surgeon (who was the same gentleman, who was with us at the loss of the Boscawen) in his usual good humour, thought of a means of shewing a further compliment to the fair-one, in making up some part of her loss : whose beauty, by all report to him, was so deserving of being obliged, else I much doubt whether all this work of pacification had thus been studied. This was to have the skin stuffed : so ordering one of his young men to perform the office of skinning, the whole society of Spanish and English gentlemen took on themselves that of stuffing ; and the dead hero was in effigy set on his feet again, in all his wonted beauty and apparel. When the expected visit arrived, and the sad account was given of his death, he was brought to his mistress, and receiving kisses from her lips, of whose happiness, alas, he was not now sensible, was wetted with some drops from her beauteous eyes, now like a sky, o'er-swoln with rain. Mr. Walker soon saw, nothing would be so great a consolation to her for the loss of Alexander living as Alexander dead. She accepted him back with all the confessions of obligation, and said,

said, "She ever would be convinced of the humanity of the English, though in so small an instance, from the great respect paid to so pretty a little being."

However trifling the whole may be, it turned out a material benefit to the gentleman we spoke of, our surgeon: for induced from the beauty and neat proportion of the limbs, he anatomized the remains, which seemed a piece of exquisite workmanship in his art. This being particularly admired by one of the principal Spanish merchants on board, a young gentleman, our surgeon presented it to him, which so obliged him, that he took a very fine yellow diamond ring off his finger, and insisted on his wearing it: as the occasion of this, we are told with the smiles of some of the other gentlemen, that the young merchant was a professed lover of the beautiful fair-one. What tender use or introduction he made of them afterwards, we cannot say; but as the acts of greatest moment often rise out of accidents of very trifling, and seeming distant concern, so, if I could with assurance say (what however for story's-sake, we will suppose) that such regard in him to his mistress's deceased favourite, raised in her a good opinion of his love to her, we shall think the death of Alexander planned by fate, and that the story of the dog and monkey has in the end a moral.

It was not the commodore's intent to have gone himself into Lisbon, or to have carried in the fleet thither; as by the accounts received from Faro, he expected some more of the like ships to sail from Cadiz. But when we came as far as was intended on our convoy, a direct storm forced us all in.

CHAP. V.

The disposing of our prisoners ; new intelligence from Faro, and Mr. Walker's policy thereon ; taking the *Nympha* ; account of the prisoners ; landing them at Belem ; a conspiracy to end the cruise, and the end thereof.

WHEN we came into Lisbon, the prisoners were immediately given up to our ambassador, Sir Benjamin Keene, and the consul there ; for by cartel settled between the English and Spaniards, all prisoners were to be returned to each party as soon as possible.

The commodore performed here a master-stroke of policy, of the French sort ; in which the subjects of that nation are so expert, that what we treat as a science, they have brought down by practice to an art or knack ; for, having introduced the Spanish captain and supercargo to Messrs. Mawman and Macey, to treat of the ransom of the ship, the Spanish gentleman in consequence of that treaty, agreed to set out immediately for Cadiz to the India company there, giving great assurances of their expedition and intended return, in six weeks, with an order for the ransom. Mr. Walker, who had got new intelligence by his tender from his spy at Faro, to whom he had instantly sent on our return hither, " That two very rich register-ships, the *St. George* and *Nympha*, were then waiting in the Bay of Cadiz, ready to sail ; but that information of our fleet being at sea, having reached their ears, they were afraid to go out." He told the captain and supercargo, " That if their return did not exceed the time mentioned, he would wait for them at Lisbon ; for that, as he wanted water, and his ships were foul, he had some matters to do his fleet." Wisely judging, that the moment they at Cadiz were convinced, by the assurances of the aforesaid captain and supercargo, that his ships were laid up at Lisbon, they would seize the opportunity

tunity of running out. Accordingly, the day before they set off, he unbent all the sails in the whole squadron, struck the top-masts and yards, and made every seeming preparation of refitting, to the wonder and amazement of both officers and men, who thought the orders very ill-timed, and were at a loss for the reason of them.

The Spanish captain, supercargo, and the rest of the gentlemen and ladies instantly set out for Cadiz, across the country, with their usual compliments of taking leave; not so much as the monkey left behind. Mr. Walker calculating the time, when the captain and supercargo would reach Cadiz, he the same morning in which he imagined them arrived there, made signals for the whole fleet to get up top-masts and yards, and to make all other necessary dispositions for immediate sailing. All which was completed in less than six hours. Thus he again set sail, February 3, 1746-7, having concerned himself no more with the prize or ransom than in writing a letter home to the managers with an account of the news; leaving the whole care and disposal of it to the present charge of the agents, Messrs. Mawman and Macey.

This sudden departure was as unexpected as the foregoing delay appeared unaccountable. But when we got to sea, the commodore made signal for all the other captains to come on board: he then informed them of his scheme and purpose, which were again soon communicated by them to the fleet, and gave a general satisfaction from the great probability of the success.

We had not been upwards of twenty-four hours in our station, before we discovered, February the ninth, a large sail to windward, to which the whole fleet gave chase. As there was little wind, and night was coming on, the commodore fitted out the Prince Edward tender with a number of men, and ordered her to row up to the chase; the barge also was hoisted out, with the first lieutenant and captain of marines, and sent after. We did not come up with her that night: in the morning she appeared about

bout three leagues quite a-head. At last the tender and barge visibly gaining upon her, and our fleet keeping as much sail as we could, they surmised who we were, and she struck her colours without firing one gun.

She was one of the very ships we before spoke of, the *Nympha*, eight hundred tons, thirty-six guns, two hundred and sixty men. Her value above one hundred and sixty thousand pounds, having near one hundred and fifteen tons of quick-silver on board; for the event happened as we expected. The Spaniards, on the above report of the captain and supercargo, made use of the opportunity, that seemed to favour them; and both ships, she and the *St. George*, sailed out immediately. The next morning after they sailed, they both fell in with the *Jersey* man of war, captain Hardy, to whom the *St. George* struck: but the *Nympha* escaped from him, by flying into the arms of those who had the best right to her.

This circumstance has been lately related to some friends before Mr. Walker, who seemed to express a concern at the loss of the other ship, in her being so accidentally intercepted; as it was owing to his scheme she was brought out of port, and as therefore she ought to have fallen to his lot, the reward of his policy. His answer was, "He was much better pleased that she happened into the hands she did; as she thereby made happy a gentleman well deserving her, and consequently many families; whereas had he got her, she had not prevented his present state." What the reason was of his so saying, I cannot determine; but it must point either to his own extravagance in spending it when got, or to his never getting it all.

Such a quantity of quick-silver to be transported to the West-Indies, may well authorize the question about the use of it. It has been a received opinion, still suspected by some people, that the Jesuits abroad have the art or secret of fixing it into pure silver. This certainly is a mistake, as in the first place, they do not appear to have any great notion of alchemy or
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the power of metals; in the next, quick-silver is nearer allied to gold than silver, being of all bodies next in weight to the former; and having by its constitution of parts, the softness of the first, it cannot, though fixed, be so altered in them as to attain the hardness and clear ring or sound of the other, without too great an alloy: so such fixation would fail of its purpose. The great use, as I have been informed, which they make of it is in collecting their gold, which in most parts of Mexico is lodged in an ore, and not so separately formed as in the sands of Africa and other places; its fine particles being intimately mixed with its bed of coarser matter, so as not to be divisible from it by washing. They therefore put the ore into large tubs, and pouring on it a proper weight of quick-silver, they stir them round together by sticks or engines of great violence; until the mercury, working itself into the pores of the ore, separates it minutely; and, whilst it abhors mixing with the earthy substances, it by a natural attraction draws, or gathers the gold into its own body, making an amalgama or kind of paste of the gold in itself; which, as the workmen then begin to wash off the lighter earthy matter, still settles to the bottom. Afterwards, by putting this on the fire, the quick-silver flies off, and the gold remains pure; which, if endeavoured to be forced in the fire in its first state, would demand so strong a heat, as instead of burning away the earth, would vitrify or turn it into glass. In which the gold would for ever mix, making it become a kind of stone; no doubt very beautiful, as in the lapis lazuli, and which I should be very glad to see tried.

From the value of so large a quantity of quick-silver, which was, at the common market-price, worth upwards of sixty thousand pounds, we may judge the great wealth of the Spanish mines; when this rich commodity is only used as a drug or menstruum to their work, and is always lost in the fire. But tho' it has the power of making gold abroad, yet our managers have proved it to have no such power in Europe.—But of this in its place.

A whim.

A whimsical surprize happened in the interview, as I may call it, between the *Nympha* and our ship. Some of the gentlemen and ladies on board, and many of the men, were the same before taken by us in the former ship, who immediately on their arrival at Cadiz, put themselves on board either the *St. George* or *Nympha*, to save their passage to the West-Indies: thus we here again picked up our old acquaintances, who thought less of seeing us than any one friend or foe upon the seas; for certainly they did not know, in which character to place us, as we indeed were in a capacity of both. One of the men seeing themselves a second time so soon into our hands, said, "O good seignior Englishman! it is very comical indeed, you make as much haste to take us, as we make haste to be taken."

The commodore went also on board this prize, and the same complaisance, and ceremonies of civility were here again acted over. Of the gentlemen who were left on board the Spanish ship, the commodore took care to leave the young merchant among the list of those proper to take care of the ladies, which seemed to give no little pleasure to the former mistress of the now forgotten Alexander. Pug was again introduced to his old master, and the joy which several of the ladies expressed in seeing Mr. Walker with the seeming familiarity and friendship that passed between them, caused much surprize and amazement in the by-standers, who were new passengers aboard: but as all were treated with like civility, they all grew equally easy in the acquaintanceship.

This prize also the commodore resolved to convey to the former one at Lisbon: for our cruise being near expired, the going home with her, and the returning to our station, would have taken up the remaining time; besides, Lisbon was, by the after orders of the managers, destined our port of discharge. Mr. Riddle being now pretty well recovered of his wounds, the commodore gave him the command of the prize; and now again we became convoy to our own treasure, and steered away for Lisbon. Mr. Riddle

dle on the eleventh of February made signals of seeing the land ; and on the thirteenth, the passengers at their own desire, were all landed at Belem : whither, at their further request, the commodore and some of his officers attended, and accompanied them to the cathedral, which is a very antient and fine structure, as they said they were going to bespeak of an English saint there a more prosperous voyage against the next time of their putting to sea. In this cathedral, Catherine, queen to king Charles the second, lies buried ; to whom, she being canonized a saint, they prayed, that she would hinder the English (supposing her still to have an interest and authority over us) from intercepting them any more in their intended voyage.

The commodore took occasion afterwards at dinner, to remark, in an easy pleasantry, on the wrong policy of their countrymen intrusting the other ships under the tutelar safety of saint George, the peculiar saint of England ; as it was certain he would betray them to his own countrymen. To this they agreed, as being very short-sighted in them ; which made way for the conclusion, that if so, those statesmen in heaven have yet their separate interests in this word. Alas ! to consider the insults given to the Deity in the misusings of their reason, which we ourselves have seen in this little circle of things, among people under a tyrannic government of religion, is productive of fear ; lest, as their country's senses come in time to themselves, they may misdoubt the whole system. For in it, as by individuals, if a man be found to have a trick of telling lies, he can hardly find faith in truth ever after.

On the fifteenth, captain Riddle departed with the prize to Lisbon, taking letters from the commodore to be delivered to the agents there ; and we went back to our station. But on the twenty-second, the commodore drawing again back towards land, the next day, we being about three leagues distant from the rock of Lisbon, Mr. Macey, one of the agents, came on-board to congratulate the commodore

dore on his sending in the late prize ; or rather by appointment, as we supposed from the aforesaid letters, to give him intelligence, thro' some directions the commodore had sent by Mr. Riddle for getting the same. He returned the same evening ; and we again bore away to sea. Between this and the twenty-eighth we chased several English privateers, a king's sloop, and some Dutch and Swedish ships, all whom we brought-to ; but the time was not yet arrived for the prize expected by the commodore to come in view ; and the cruise being near an end, he for such purpose endeavoured to spin it out as long as he could, and gave assurances of the great probability of his expectations, from certain intelligence which he had received. The men and most of the officers, all who now thought their fortune sent before them to Lisbon, desirous of following it, argued the cruise to be now at an end ; reckoning from the time of their first departure from England : but as the articles expressed the eight months cruise to mean being at sea, the commodore insisted that the time in harbour was not to be reckoned as part, but to be deducted from the whole ; which carried on the time of the cruise still farther. However, on the ninth of March, being informed of a design in the men the next day to give three cheers from each of the ships, as ending the cruise, he sent word to the captains of each ship to secure their arms, and also sent orders wrote by himself, to be read publicly in every ship. The men were thus kept to their duty, more out of awe than inclination ; for the day after this, the captain of the Duke sent their master in irons aboard us, being suspected of cutting the gun-tackles and britchings, in a late gale of wind ; and the next day, the Frederick sent their first and second lieutenants, also prisoners, and seven men, for insisting in a mutinous manner on breaking up the cruise. These were all detained for trial, and on the fifteenth a court-martial was held of all the captains on the two lieutenants ; one of whom was broke, but on petition restored ; and the men also, tho' on trial found guilty, were forgiven :

forgiven : as now in fact by all consent the cruise grew near an end, and the commodore said, he wished to end it without having one dissatisfied man in the fleet. And now, the twenty-fifth of March one thousand seven hundred and forty-seven arrived, at which time the cruise ended according to the commodore's own computation ; when he broke it up, the men all in health and high spirits ; and tho' glad of its being ended, the joy was in the notion of our having had enough of fortune ; and thus we set sail for Lisbon.

When we came into Lisbon, we found there all our Spanish acquaintances. By some delay in the cartel, they had not been sent forward so soon as the former time. They came amongst several of the town to congratulate us on our arrival ; and the ladies boasted to us, in return for our former jokes, of their superior interest with our English queen Catharine, who had forbid our intercepting any more of their ships.

We will just send them off to Spain, and then conclude. During the short time of their stay, we afterwards had several mutual invitations and parties of pleasure. They made one grand entertainment for us in particular, to which were invited several Portuguese noblemen and merchants, our own agents and others ; we had musick and a ball. The Spanish ladies and gentlemen dressed themselves out in their richest habits and jewels, on purpose of making a public acknowledgment of them to Mr. Walker. The captain and supercargo of the *Buen Consejo* were also there, returned from their negotiation from Spain ; and in great pleasantry and lively satire of the company, were called the two intelligencers of the Royal Family. This public respect from our enemies did the commodore some compliment in the place. They next day took leave, which hindered the civility being returned, making great assurances of their endeavours for life, to cultivate the natural good opinion, they said, ought for mutual interest to exist between their nation and ours ; and lamented the
French

French policy, which could so artfully draw a curtain of fictitious story-painting (as they termed it) across the views of both countries; which, they said, they hoped in time would be removed.

A few weeks after, a diamond ring was sent to the commodore at Lisbon, from some of the public officers of the court of Spain, in the direction of their Register-fleet. It was computed at about thirty moi-dorer value; but the motto was the intended payment of their respect, couched within the outward present of a ring; which Mr. Walker has forbid me to transcribe. And, after the peace, some English and Irish gentlemen, who were in the present fleet under Mr. Walker, having occasion to go to Spain, particularly Mr. Kennaway, our surgeon-general, before spoke of, and others, asked letters of recommendation from him to some houses there, whose directions these grateful people had put into his hand. The civil reception they met with, the good offices shewn to such his letters are too much to mention: but to speak as much to the purpose in fewer words, each person so recommended made fortunes amongst them, except Mr. Kennaway, whose good understanding and boldness of speech always stood in his way of preferment especially in a popish country. If our readers from these returns of favours draw a supposition, how easy a right understanding may be cultivated between that nation and ourselves; these particulars may appear less tedious, and the consideration of them will arise to public utility.

The Nympha was also put into the hands of Messieurs Mawman and Macey; and thus our cruise of eight months ended, with taking four prizes, then valued at a reasonable estimation, greatly upwards of two hundred and twenty thousand pounds, without the loss of one man killed.

C H A P. VI.

The fitting out the fleet ; the behaviour of the men ; change of officers ; the wreck of a Lisbon packet ; a new dispute and story in religion ; the compliment of the sea-men to the Portuguese court ; a strange exorcism, or casting out of a devil.

BY the former articles of agreement with the managers, the last cruise was to have ended at the port of London ; yet as they had resolved upon sending out the same ships on a second cruise, it was thought most prudent to refit them at Lisbon ; as thereby, being nearer their station, less time would be lost, and especially as several conveniences could be had there cheaper and easier than at London. The croud also of English and Irish vessels, always trafficking there, afford great numbers of men, who have no need of secreting themselves for fear of being pressed : for there never was but one instance of a press at Lisbon for English seamen, within the time of Mr. Walker's knowledge of the place ; even this was occasioned by some cause of very great emergency, and had given such umbrage to the Portuguese court, as to put the expectation of another past all fear.

However, though all these advantages may be a proof of the good policy of the managers, Mr. Walker foresaw one great inconvenience, as to the danger of desertion, by the men being set adrift in a foreign port ; which they at home did not think of, at least the remedy and care of it lay intirely upon him. And therefore, when the ships were brought into the Tagus, and were safely moored and unrigged (which was done in less than three hours, to the surprize of the whole town) he went on board each of them ; and returning thanks to the several crews, in behalf of themselves and owners, for their faithful services, told them, " that the managers, upon the account of the late success, had agreed upon fitting the fleet

out

out on a second cruise, and had thought proper to end the present one there, that the ships might be more ready in proceeding to sea, and be sooner at their station: that he hoped most of them, who approved of him as a commander, would continue with him in the service; that such of them as would again enter and help in equipping the fleet, should, besides their entrance-money, be put on regular wages; that such who chose to be on shore should be supplied with further monies on account, during the time of their stay; and that they who desired to go home, should be sent away in one of the vessels, at the expence of the owners: But that he asked one favour of them as British subjects, that none would think of idly staying there, or going into the service of any other country but their own; as they now were all men of property, and such desertion would be a forfeiture of it."

Every ship's crew in general declared their approbation of his command; and said they would go with him so long as his ship could swim, such was their general phrase. This was more than was expected. Accordingly, after regaling themselves a few days a-shore, when Messrs. Mawman and Macey had got ready the proper articles (which they themselves signed in behalf of the managers, as their agents) above two thirds of the men entered themselves for another eight month's cruise; and every thing was put forward for the sea with the greatest expedition. A sufficient number of them took the wages, and set to work upon equipping the ships. A few indeed of the men who had entered, following some idle ones who had not, after selling their shares of the prizes, went off to the Spaniards, mostly seduced by some emissaries belonging to that court, who for such purpose usually ply at Lisbon. Whereupon, Mr. Walker, as he had his spies ready set, fearing the occasion, immediately applied to Sir Benjamin Keen, who readily assisted in getting an order for apprehending them: by which they were brought back, and secured in the trunk or prison. They only who had entered

entered and received the advance money, and afterwards deserted, were kept prisoners until the time of our sailing; and those who had not, Mr. Walker took care to see embarked for England by the first opportunity. This conduct has been maliciously mis-told, to the discredit both of the managers and Mr. Walker, by one Goddard, an agent for the people. Of which more shall be said hereafter. As to the remainder, being upwards of eight hundred men, no such class of people ever behaved better, remarkable for cleanliness and an honest spirit. They dressed in a uniform cockade, to distinguish themselves; and the whole time of their refitting, which was near three months, not a complaint was made against them, not a broil or accident happened, except a dispute, which one of our officers had, in point of religion, with some popish priests; and which had like to have sent him to the inquisition, as shall be hereafter related, for the purpose more of shewing the cause of such censure, than any great entertainment in the matter itself: but we must first mention some other circumstances which happened.

Captain Bromedge of the Prince Frederick, and captain Green of the Prince George, not chusing to continue the sea any longer, as they thought they had already made a sufficiency for life; and Mr. Shaf-toe, being offered the command of a trading vessel belonging to the Portuguese; they severally desired to lay down their commissions; and as Mr. Walker had an intire power of making or displacing all officers under his command, he removed captain Dottin, who had given many proofs of his good capacity, from the Duke into the Prince Frederick; captain Denham from the Princess Amelia into the Duke; and gave Mr. Riddle, the gentleman who had so bravely distinguished himself in cutting out the vessel from Saffia-bay, the command of the Princess Amelia; and Mr. Davidson, one of his lieutenants, the command of the Prince George; and Mr. Hamilton, another of his lieutenants, the command of the Prince Edward; and preferred the lieutenants of the other ships,

ships, and several of the midshipmen, according to their seniority and merit. Numbers also of young gentlemen were sent from England, with letters of recommendation from their friends to Mr. Walker, for commissions, and as volunteers and midshipmen. Out of these all other vacancies were filled up. He then sent home for new letters of marque for each of the ships, who were thus given new commanders; whereby also the Prince George tender now ranked with the fleet, as a cruising ship. Which new commissions were all regularly sent back to him, in the names of the above gentlemen. The Prince Edward remained in her former station and duty as an intelligence boat or tender, for transporting stores from one ship to another; which accustomary use of her the said ingenious Mr. Goddard has endeavoured to represent to the legislature, as a piratical act in the managers, and Mr. Walker, for introducing her into the fleet without a commission. So weak are tales which envy or malice will often tell to indulge their own spleen or intentions!

The allowance agreed to by the managers for the men out of the prize-money, was ten moidores each, including their entrance-money. This not being sufficient for a three months stay, Mr. Walker, whose credit was now also established with the agents on his own footing, to avoid sending home to alter instructions, took up sums, on his own account, as the men wanted more money; and so lent it to them, taking their notes or receipts for the same. By this means he knew their spendings, and being thereby a kind of check on them, almost fixed them to an allowance. This was a great good to the men, an ease and benefit to the managers, but a loss to himself.—Of which in its place.

As to our provisions, the managers at home engaged to send them to us from England, by the time calculated, that the fleet would be ready for the sea: but they not coming according to their own promises, and after our depending on them so long, that the delay threatened a greater loss than the value of them,

the agents thought it best to buy provisions at Lisbon, sufficient for four months, as we could not venture to sea with a less quantity, and as we should return in that time for those from England. This was done, and most of the provisions put on board, when a few days before we were ready to sail, the two transports with eight months provisions arrived from England, dearer and worse than what we bought at Lisbon. We then took in our full complement from the English stores, intending at the above expiration, to put in again to Lisbon for the remainder.

This expence so greatly swelling the charges at Lisbon, has been ill-naturedly set down by public report to the bad oeconomy of Mr. Walker; but is a subject which can be greatly enlarged on, to his exoneration.

It may be asked, what became of the negociation of the Spanish captain and supercargo, relating to the ransom of the *Buen Consejo*? or how the prizes were disposed of? This was at present no business of ours, but of the managers: ours being only to take prizes, theirs to dispose of them as well as they could.

During the time of our refitting, an English packet-boat, the *King George*, struck in going over the bar, and was lost near the wooden-fort on the south side. As we then were lying below the castle of Belem, we had immediate opportunity of seeing her distress. The commodore quickly sent the *Prince Edward* tender, and four of our boats well-manned, to her assistance. They were just in time to save all the people, the mail, some valuables, and all the money, to a very considerable sum. But here a catastrophe happened: poor Cabel, the witty conductor of the plot of getting the men from the *Exeter* privateers for the *Boscawen* and other ships at Dartmouth, in saving the money from the packet, let a little part of it fall into his own pockets. He certainly deserved some reward for his brisk agility in preserving it: but, alas! the world will allow no rewards but what come from its own giving: self-rewards are thought to be taking that power out of its hands, and are therefore

therefore often punished as a theft. 'Tis therefore I imagine the philosophers allowed one thing only to be its own reward, namely, virtue; because it is generally left unrewarded by the world. This affair having been found out by a quarrel in the distribution, in which were also involved an officer and two other men, the commodore first collected the money, to the amount of about fifty pounds, and sent it to the captain of the packet; and at the same time having secured his pardon for the delinquents, he dismissed them with disgrace. Indeed they all desired leave to withdraw: for though it may appear wonderful to tell, the crime was universally disclaimed against by our whole crews. To such a regularity of mind had the regularity of action at last brought the whole!

The affair, which happened in a dispute about religion, is this: There is an assembly of priests very near Lisbon, several of them Irish, impowered by public contributions to give cloaths and money to all whom they can gain as converts from any state of heresy to the doctrine of their own church. Hither some of our crew in frolic went, to be white washed, as the phrase is among them, for this new inward and outward cloathing. But they, turning truants to the new doctrine, and coming back to us again, gave such a whimsical description of the method in which the priests treated them, that it raised the desire of Mr. Kennaway, our surgeon, (a gentleman we before spoke of as a man of a lively turn of wit and expression) to go see the ceremony and manner. Accordingly, he dressed himself in a common jacket, and taking some of the men with him, as comrades, he set out on the new pilgrimage. He told them, "if he accepted their doctrine, he would accept their cloathing; but had honour not to wear their livery, unless he entered truly into their service." This introduction, having an appearance of well meaning, was greatly applauded by the reverend fathers. But, alas! he made another discovery to them, a little more astonishing: which was, "that he had no religion at all; and so begged them to begin with him from the first,

first, in a regular course of instruction." This was but meer humour in him; his father having originally intended him for a clergyman, and versed him well in texts of scripture; sufficient, if not to fix the grounds of any religion, to make him a disputant in all. It had the effect he intended, by putting them to a confusion how to proceed with him in a general plan; the priests of the Romish persuasion being observed to be more industrious of finding arguments in defence of their own particular church, against the various systems set up in opposition to their political schemes or designs, and in support of forms and ceremonies, than in comprehending and explaining any connected doctrine of reason and sense, instructive to a pure understanding.

I shall not enter into any discussion of their several propositions and arguments, questions and answers; but shall under favour relate one of his stories, as he told it to the priests, by way of example to one of his arguments; because I think it has in it a great deal of good humour and good sense; in all probability, the ready invention of his own brain.

"There were, says he, a Romish monk, a Russian priest, a Presbyterian, a Quaker, a Moravian methodist, and a poor transported Protestant clergyman, all in one ship, going a voyage to the West-Indies; but being bound to Africa to take in slaves, they were met by a storm, and wrecked much lower down the coasts than where the trade generally reached to. The black king of the place received them into his kingdom with great civility, and being all white men and calling themselves each by the common name of christians, he imagined them all the same people, and provided for them in places about him. When they were got into employment, and had learned the language of the country, they each offered to convert him and his people to the true religion. Upon which, he ordered a certain day to be fixed, to hear them argue on the new doctrine. The monk begun; but before he had got to the third sentence, *that's a lie*, cries the Russian priest, interrupting him. The black king

king started at the contradiction : however, they went on in opposing each other, very loud and angry, till at last the Presbyterian took up the cudgels, and swore *that they both were sons of the whore of Babylon.* “*Hey day !* says the prince, *another division among you !*” When the Moravian, fetching many groans, as made his majesty and the whole court believe him in a fit of the gripes; brought forth, *How wrathfully is my inward spirit moved at such diabolical preachings of this Presbyterian :* for he agreed (he said) with the two foregoing churches in all their stratagems, though he had found out a new light for performing them. Upon this the Quaker, also moved by passion, breaks out : *Thou canting scoundrel ! thou pretendest to a new light who art for leading other people in the dark !* The jargon then grew more promiscuous, to the great confusion of the royal judgment. But the king, whilst the rest were engaged in the dispute, at last spoke aside to the Protestant (who had not yet opened his mouth) desiring him to take himself and his brethren along with him out of his dominions, lest they should mention a word of this religion to his people. *O please your majesty,* says the clergyman, *though all these christians be in the wrong, yet I alone am in the right ; and can shew your majesty and people the only true doctrine, which by my deportment you see is peace. These people are no other than different sects sprung from me or different opinions of one belief.* “*If that be the case,* replies the king, *I must insist on your immediate departure : for I fear your doctrine admits of so many contradicting opinions, you are not well assured of it yourself ; at least it is too dangerous a one to be introduced amongst my people, all of whom, I thank God, now live in brotherly union and affection.*” The king then put them together in a bark, and judging the English priest the most temperate of the whole, he put the rudder into his hand, to carry them safe to some port. Thus the true doctrine is denied gaining ground in the world, by the various contradictions of the several teachers of it.

This story being told with great force of application, and all the advantages of a peculiar dialect, to the several persons of the drama, (at which merit we do not pretend in the writing) made the assembly of ghostly fathers so very angry at one of the poor natural children of sense, that, where they certainly might have been informed, they lost the moral. So much does prejudice or enthusiasm blind reason's eyes!—Upon the whole, he had too much power both of reason and wit to make it an equal contention. Where reason had scope for an advantage, he pushed her against them, generally so well supported by wit, that where they should have embraced information, they only grew passionate; damned him for an heretic, an unbeliever, and offspring of the devil.

Had he stopped here, all would have been well; but his wit out-run his prudence. In short, he so provoked them by advancing plain sense against mystery, that, when they found their whole superstructure overturned from off the foundation on which they had built it, they looked on him as an agent from the devil, and, calling him a blasphemer, absolutely took him into custody, and he was especially detained.

The rest of his companions returned home, with a poor account of their expedition, to the commodore; who next day went to Sir Benjamin Keene, and found that the order of priests had instantly made complaint of the affair to the patriarch. He is the highest priest in power, next the pope, in all the Christian world; having been instituted by the king in direct opposition to the papal authority, on account of some political quarrel with that chair, who as politically soon made it up; for it is said the payments or indulgences alone granted to this country in the time of Lent, for eating eggs, &c. bring into that see upwards of an hundred thousand pounds sterling each year. However, though the pope is again acknowledged supreme, this patriarch still holds up his first created grandeur, and is served by bishops on the knee. Their application to him was for leave to deliver over the heretic sailor to the inquisition; and it

was

was believed he would be given up to that resentment, contrary to custom, tho' not precedent, of meddling with English protestants. But the matter being called before the king for his consent or approbation (as it was of a foreign nature) his majesty declared "that the English subjects were free to enjoy their own way of thinking," and ordered him to be released.

Thus Mr. Kennaway for this time got off unhurt. I have mentioned that he was the only gentleman, who, of those going to Spain with recommendations from Mr. Walker, was obliged to return before he had compleated his purpose of making a fortune amongst them; which happened on account of a like accident to this, in visiting a friend of his, an English captain of a ship, in a fit of illness; round whom he found a gathered heap of priests torturing the poor sick man's brains on all the various racks of extortion. With them he could not help taking up the argument, and managed it against them so much to the recovery of his friend's senses, as to have them all dismissed the house. On this a complaint having been made to the inquisition, the governor of the place, with whom he had acquired a most friendly intimacy, sent him a letter with great privacy, wishing him a good journey, and expressing "how sorry he was that their place or climate was too hot for his English constitution:" on which he took the hint, and made his escape. It is therefore very dangerous to venture at any church-reformation in those countries.

But to shew the spirit of our men on the above occasion, and in what a rank they rated themselves, I must mention a whimsical instance of their politeness. The Portugal court in this late order had so much obliged them, that, as the accident happened a little before we were ready for sailing, all the crews went in a body, to the number of upwards of eight hundred, drest neatly in new cockades, with musick playing before them to the palace-gates, to thank the king for his royal interposition in their favour; and being by order let into an inner-court, the queen and

prince came publicly to an open balcony, and received from them three cheers of thanks with very seeming pleasure. This was done without the previous knowledge of the commodore, who the next day went to a particular nobleman at court, to whom he had the honour of being known, to excuse it to the king. His majesty assured him by the nobleman, he took it in its true light of a civility; and as he was then indisposed, (for he was terribly afflicted with the palsy, being as to all use of his limbs, quite dead on one side by it) desired Mr. Walker might be introduced to him on another day. But as the time fixed for our departure would not admit of a second visit, Mr. Walker was obliged to postpone that ceremony of honour intended him, till another opportunity. His majesty thereupon sent out to him his good wishes for a prosperous and successful cruise.

We may suppose a great deal of the indulgence shewn in this late affair by the court, was owing to the active interest Mr. Walker made on the occasion, through Sir Benjamin Keene and some Portuguese noblemen, who had visited him during the time of our refitting, which has fixed no little or invaluable privilege to the English subjects.

When the ships were equipped, several Portuguese companies came on board to see them; for as to neatness and order, nothing of the kind could be superior. Mr. Walker was also particularly honoured in the acquaintance of the duke of Hamilton, who then was at Lisbon for his health. His grace frequently took the pleasures of the water; at which times, during our refitting, Mr. Walker often took the opportunity of carrying his grace in his own barge, attended by others with music, &c. We have heard that Mr. Walker has at home been censured for an elegance in his frequent entertainments. I will own them beyond the usual rank of his brother sea-captains; but if I may have leave to interpose my own judgment, what I always admitted as elegant and a compliment to the person invited, I could never censure as extravagant. He was always happy in the
notice

notice of people of fashion, and no wonder if others, who envied him their company, invent something to find fault with. However, the money he spent was solely his own; and the greatest entertainment he made was on the occasion of our being compleatly equipped, when his grace of Hamilton dined on board: Mr. Walker had five barges lying at the shore to receive him. As he was upon the water, he was saluted by two of our king's ships, which were then lying in the river, and by all the ships of our own fleet, as he passed them. The salutes were with the small arms and manning of the ships; for, by his Portuguese majesty's orders, no great guns are allowed to be fired above the castle of Belem. When the duke came in prospect of the King George, we appeared with only our common ensign, jack, and pennant flying; but as he drew near, the men being placed all over the several parts of her on the stays, yards, bowsprit, shrouds, and gunnels, with the different and various colours of all the maritime nations of the world rolled up in their hands, at the beat of a drum let them all fly in an instant; which hid the ship in a sudden metamorphosis, as in an heap of painted waves, and made an appearance in the transition very beautiful and striking. At which his grace expressed a pleasure that would have complimented a performance of greater merit; nor was his politeness less expressive as to other parts of the entertainment.

If it may not be thought too tedious a delay to stop the reader for an account of a very odd and strange exorcism, or casting out of a devil, which we were witnesses to, we will give a description of it for its novelty.

It may be asked, why so many of our remarks concerning these countries are touching religion? We answer, that in those Romish countries of Europe, it is the chief thing attracts notice; other customs and manners being much the same as with us. Indeed it is the most useful characteristic to be remarked to our countrymen, as in our superiority to it chiefly consists our superiority over them. We shall therefore tell it very shortly.

Mr. Walker attended his grace of Hamilton, in a tour or party of pleasure, about twenty-five or thirty miles from Lisbon, to Maffra and Sentrin : at the first of which places, is the greatest and most beautiful palace of modern architecture in the known world, being a palace, convent, and church, all in one, built of white marble, highly polished on the inside, and reckoned to have cost upwards of ten millions sterling. At the last, is another of extream Gothic antiquity, and esteemed a work of equal curiosity of its kind, having been built by the Moors when they were in possession of the country. In which is a large hall of great extent, wherein are some hundreds of marble pillars, through which they used to perform their Moorish dances. The duke, after taking an attentive review of both these structures, and their several curiosities, returned to Lisbon. Mr. Walker and some of his company went forward to Calcavello, where was a priest famous for casting out devils ; we were observers of the ceremony, it being performed in a public church. The subject he worked on was a young woman, who in one sense was no impostress, as she certainly imagined herself inwardly possessed with an evil dæmon. But how the spirit came there was as certainly owing to the prepossessions of the priest himself, who purposely terrified the poor creature into a belief of it.

The occasion was this : a family in the place being superstitiously affected at some accidents happening in the house, imagined it possessed with a devil, and sent for a priest to turn the devil out. The priest searching the house for him, at last found him in the maid-servant. She, naturally alarmed thereat, and frightened to a degree of terror, which reaches near the borders of frenzy, could not help feeling, what he said he saw and conversed with in her ; and at this operation, to which she was publicly brought, it was he saw and spoke to the devil in her, not she who complained ; he, with sudden startings, frequently crying out, that the devil was now here in her, now there. Then he made pretences of whispering

pering him ; whilst at every word or touch, the poor terrified creature shuddering in belief, shrieked with fear ; or scared from her senses, dropt into swoons, or fell into fits or agonies of laughing, weeping, or convulsed insensibility. All which was beheld with admiration by the crowd, as the violent tearings and workings of the spirit. When she recovered from the fit, he was ready to throw her, still frightened and trembling, into another ; till at last, judging by her passions (of which he seemed a cunning master, and in which his whole secret appeared to us to consist) when was the proper time to produce the devil, he pulled him, as he said, with a roar out of her mouth, and saw him fly away, being the only man in the company who did. The poor girl, satisfied that the spirit was gone, began to recover ; but was so weak and enfeebled, that I dare say she took a woman's full time in such re-establishment of herself after this her delivery. The priest was thought to have done a great work, and was almost worshipped by the believing multitude, as having performed an apostolic miracle. In which pretence he run no risque of being detected of imposture ; for if he had drove his patient into madness, he had still been safe from the imputation, or even supposition of such practice ; as the madness would have been attributed to the great power the devil had over her ; which again would have been ascribed to her own sin.

The cheat was so very palpable to us, that I cannot say whether we were moved more with anger at the villainy of the pretending priest, or pity at the blinded belief of the by-standing people. But in the doubt where to fix, we soon dropt our passions, and recalled our thoughts to a consideration of ourselves in thanks to God, who had brought us into this world under his happier dispensation, or light of reason. The prospect of our enlightened country appeared before us ; and we saw what we hope each individual in it will believe, that a British peasant, born to liberty of mind, as well as person, is, in his own state, a more noble existence of man than the rich potentates
of

of those countries, whose minds have submitted from their youth to have the chains and shackles of prejudice and superstition put upon them, and which they must ever after wear and drag on in old age, as the slaves of priestly imposition, and of its associate, tyranny; for the loss of the mind's freedom is the certain consequence of the general loss of liberty. Hence let every human being of Britain know, how great a treasure they have to defend in their own country: for should we know its loss, the forfeiture of life would appear an easy price of re-purchasing that natural right of our existence, to hand it down a blessing to posterity; which they have also a further right in, as we received it from our fathers.

C H A P. VII.

The entire loss of the Prince Edward tender. Taking the St. Juan Baptista. An account of the vice-roy on board. Taking two Spanish settees. And the engagement with the Glorioso, a Spanish man of war. And our return to Lisbon.

FRIDAY, July the 10th, 1747, O. S. the commodore made signal to weigh. Our fleet were

Private Ships of War.

The King George.	Commodore.	
Prince Frederick.	Edward Dottin.	} Capts.
Duke	Rob. Denham.	
Princess Amelia.	Andrew Riddle.	
Prince George.	Fr. Davidson.	
Prince Edward Tender.	Fred. Hamilton.	

in the whole one hundred and fourteen carriage guns, besides swivels, and a compleat thousand men. Next day we proceeded to our station, which was to cruise between Cape Cantin on the Barbary coast, and Cape St. Mary's on the Portuguese.

But almost as soon as we got to our station, a fatal accident happened the Prince Edward tender; for
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on the thirteenth, having the day before seen a large fleet of ships to the number of twenty, and being in close chace of them, as she crouded sail after us, we saw her on a sudden reel strangely in the water, and then founder stern foremost, contrary to all other ships in sinking, as they generally go down by the head. All the boats were got out as soon as possible; but notwithstanding every assistance, the only persons saved were Mr. Hamilton and two men, who kept themselves above water by their own swimming, till the boats got to them; all the rest perished to about ten. Surprizing it is to think how deficient our common seamen in general are in that exercise, so very essential to their profession! This sad catastrophe was occasioned by her mainmast starting out of the step in which it was placed, not having had sufficient hold thereof; for by the straining of it in crouding sail, the heel slipt out, and then the mast again plunging downwards by the weight of the shrouds and sails upon it, run through her bottom, and sunk her instantly; the weight of the mast slipping backwards, sending her down by the stern as before described. The ships we were in chace of proved to be a fleet of Dutchmen, under convoy of two men of war of sixty guns each, from Malaga to Lisbon.

Watching in our station about 12 o'clock at noon, August the ninth, wind N. N. E. Cape Spartel bearing E. by N. distant about eight leagues, our ship was all on a sudden becalmed, and as it were, struck motionless. Every ship also, as they came up one after another, having the wind with them to the spot where we lay becalmed, the moment they reached us, dropt their sails, and there we all lay as in a regular line of battle. As not a ruffle moved along the surface, the sea became an entire mirror, and so continued most of the next day; which, though a scene of surprizing beauty from the stillness of the whole, and the clear reflection of the ships and their breathless pennants in the water, yet the time appeared tedious even to an irksomeness, and our own silence at the occasion seemed to join the sleep of nature.

ture. The very musick lost its sweetness and grew insipid, and every attempt in it to sprightliness in power failed; which shews us the unhappiness of an inactive state, and that man is formed to be employed. When the wind sprung up, a transport in us rose with it at our release from inactivity, as at being set free from an imprisonment.

At this time we struck a dolphin, which was not usual here, it being always in pursuit of the flying fish, who mostly frequent the Mediterranean and West-Indies; and who, to avoid him, will often light upon the decks of ships. The dolphin as it dies changes to a thousand various colours of exquisite fire and beauty. From its boldness or familiarity in following ships, the old fable of its great love to mankind may have taken rise; but as painters in the tradition of its figure which they have handed down to us, seem to have mistaken its shape, describing it more like the seal, dog-headed and high-backed (whereas it is shaped most like the salmon, longer and thinner) we may justly conclude the name has been misused or wrong applied. Some people conjecture, that the fish meant by the dolphin is the porpoise, which species is equally familiar, and will follow a ship in great numbers for several days; and which, from its roll or play in the water, always appears curved, though a straight fish in itself: besides, the dolphin is of delicate flavour and very wholesome, which the others are not. This seems also to corroborate the above supposition; for, to my best recollection, we have never heard of the ancients eating the dolphin, and they seemed to search the earth, air, and seas for delicacies, with equal skill as the moderns. But what most of all favours the conjecture is, that the true dolphin is seldom seen in the Mediterranean, whereas the porpoises roll there in great numbers.

On the night of the seventeenth, the Prince George tender did not answer the false fires made from the rest of the fleet, and being missing the next morning and the succeeding days, we imagined that through some distress, she had turned back, or put into port.

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This was the greater loss to us on account of the former accident to the Prince Edward, as we had in frequent services experienced the use of these small tenders.

On the twentieth, about ten in the morning, in sight of the Barbary Coast, we saw a strange sail to leeward, and made signals for chasing: but there being little or no wind, we gained on her very slowly all that day. In the evening, we hoisted out the barge and yawl, and sent them after her, lest she should alter her course in the night: so did the Prince Frederick and the Duke theirs. At five in the evening our yawl returned, not being able to keep a-head of the ship: we were still out of reach of the chase, but at eight the barges got up with her, when she fired two shots at them, which they returned with their small-arms; but in an hour after, we lost sight both of our barges and the chase, they bearing W. S. W. about two miles distance; for now the wind freshened, and the weather grew cloudy. Violent lightnings also came on, so as frequently to set the whole air at once in a flash of fire. At other times we saw the lightning at some distance pour down from the skies in pointed streams of fire, and the claps of thunder broke so loud and near us, as made the scene terrible. Whether from the sound itself, or distant echoes of it I cannot say, but the noise sometimes seemed below us, which brought to my recollection, at once, the description and solution of the like circumstance, of a storm in the *Æneid*, where it says, "The poles thundered". Thank God! we had here but half of that description to encounter, the wind not rising to any violence. About midnight it grew exceeding dark: we and the other ships made false fires for our barges, which were answered by some of them. A little afterwards the Duke's barge fell in with the Prince Frederick, and they hoisted her in: the next morning we saw the chase again, and our barge attending her, but no sight of the Prince Frederick's, wherein were fifteen of the best sailors of the ship: but as by the commodore's orders, all boats sent upon these

these expeditions, constantly took with them a store of water, some provisions, and a compass, in case of losing the ships by night or fogs; so it was hoped that these poor fellows being provided with all these necessaries, would make some place of safety.

About six, we came up with the chase, who did not strike her colours till the Prince Frederick had fired a fourth gun at her, which appeared the more perverse as the fleet was in view. She was the *St. Juan Baptista*, burthen eighty tons, a Spanish tartan, from the Canaries bound to Cadiz, with money and cocoa; which cargo was said to be part of the treasure of the *Hector* and *Henry*, the very ships which we before mentioned, we were originally intended to go in quest of. Her money was not above six thousand pounds; but her other cargo was rich. The money was put on board the *King George*, and the cocoa and other valuable effects on board the other ships; and Mr. Hamilton, who before had the command of the *Prince Edward* tender, was put on board the prize with a proper number of men. The captain of her was a Frenchman, who with two Spanish gentlemen, passengers, came on board the commodore. One of them was a vice-roy, a man of great fortune, who as the highest in rank was most humble of any through a sense of the civilities he received, and most ready in acknowledging them.

But the first care, after securing the prize, was to send in search of the poor fellows, who were missing; wherefore the commodore dispatched captain Hamilton in the prize to the first port on the Portuguese shore, with letters of credit to be forwarded for them to the several correspondents at Faro, Cadiz, and Gibraltar, in hopes that they had got hold of some part of that shore: and in case they had been obliged to put over to the Morocco coast, he likewise gave further directions to the last correspondents to forward letters of credit to Sallee and Santa Cruz; and himself followed with the fleet, intending to water at Faro.

On

On the next day we chased three large fail of ships. They were the Jersey man of war, captain Hardy, the Spence sloop, and Enterprize; who gave us the agreeable news of their having met the Prince George tender, about eight days before off Cape St. Mary's; and two days afterwards we received an account by another chase, that she and the Tartan prize were both safe at Faro. The same day also, the Prince Frederick received the news, by a ship she met, of her barge being safe with all her crew, at a Spanish port about ten leagues to the eastward of Faro, called High-mount. They had been separated from our ships in that dreadful night, by a hurricane, which caught them in particular, and were out at sea eight days and nights, before they reached the shore: so that it was the greatest goodness of Providence, which foretold them to take such provisions with them as they did. For as it was, they were drove to the greatest hardships and terrors of mind, not having a morsel left them for the last day before they saw land, except some water and brandy, after having scanted themselves to a poor pittance for the former days; and at last they were obliged to submit themselves prisoners to an enemy's country.

On the twenty-fifth, the commodore stood in for Faro to water, when the Prince George joined us. Here we righted our ships, and proceeded to Lagos Bay, on purpose to land there the Spanish gentlemen, captain and prisoners. The commodore sent with the vice-roy, as a compliment of a guard, an equal number of the Spanish prisoners, to be, when got to High-mount (as it was the first Spanish town in his way homeward) exchanged for our men. And also begged him to deliver some letters of credit, which carried orders for them, when the cartel was settled, to come round to him at Lisbon; for it would have trespassed too far on the time of our cruise, to have waited for them till they could have come to Faro.

This gentleman, when aboard, took great pleasure in observing the behaviour and customs of the common seamen, and expressed his approbation of many particularities

particularities in them, not out of meer complaisance, but always giving very sensible reasons for his remarks. One observation among many, much superior to it, tho' too tedious to be here introduced, I cannot help remarking for the common familiarity of it to us; especially as a contrary reasoning on the same subject has generally seemed to take place.

It was always Mr. Walker's rule to promote as much exercise as possible among the men, by planning out various diversions for them which created sweating: being convinced, that the sea-scurvy increased itself, or took most root in a sluggish blood; and that by frequent moderate perspirations, those salts might be worked off, or melted by sweating, which would otherwise corrode, or fix themselves in a matter, which, so let to rest, would in a little time grow too heavy or hard to be pushed or washed off. However right his opinion may be, he by this practice always kept his men in every ship sweet and healthful. A case of foils always lay on the quarter-decks, for the use and exercise of the officers, and cudgels lay on the other decks for the common men. At which, all took their turns. Our Spanish gentleman was most delighted at the cudgel-playing, which was frequently performed on purpose before him by our best masters of the art. As sometimes a broken head was a proof of the mastership, or the end of the entertainment; when he saw the blood come, and the wounded man in such good humour with the conquered, as immediately to shake hands and drink together (which was the custom) he always lifted up his eyes with amazement and admiration, and said, that "he desired no greater instance than that one low particular of two the greatest inherent virtues which could bless a people in general, namely, courage and generosity of soul; and that from this common circumstance he was fully convinced of the peculiar greatness of the nation. With us, says he, the grandson of the man who had lost blood, would have owed a secret grudge to the children of the other, who had drawn it;

and

and in all probability would some time or other take an unfair opportunity of a bloody revenge."

If the reader has gained an opinion of this gentleman's sense, and will not think a story from him of himself an interruption to the present business; I shall venture to relate one after him, in as good a manner as I can. If the reader should think that in some parts it puts on the air of a romance; I beg he may not charge me with such taste of writing, but consider the persons, who are the actors in it: whose country's favourite passion is love. In which, as of all people in the world they are most restrained in, so are they of any most scheming and venturous in pursuing it. The story was introduced by some enquiry we made about the earthquake at Lima.

"To tell you my true losses, says he, I must begin very far back, even from my infancy. My father was vice-roy or governor of the place, of which I at present am. Dying, whilst I was very young, he left me and my mother, with all his effects (which were personal and very considerable) in the care of the next great man of the place; who, by having been long in some public office there, had amassed a surprising fortune of the like kind: for Europeans, who fill those great offices, seldom realize in the country the profits they make by it. This gentleman did not discharge the trust, which my father placed in him, as he ought: for, in my younger days, I remember to have heard my mother make great complaints of his parsimony in his allowances to her and myself, as not consistent with either of our characters, and injurious to the education I ought to have received. For the better part of which I was totally obliged to her particular care and early instruction of me; and though a woman, I have at this day no reason to complain of her tutorship; as she was in the first place a person of strict virtue, and had several other recommending accomplishments. This circumstance of my life has often furnished me with a strong power of reflecting, how very essential in the consideration of marriage is the choice of a wise woman, even beyond

yond beauty or fortune ; for in case of any ill fate or accident happening the husband, she can then supply his place to his children. The first stroke of ill fortune I suffered was by an illness she was seized with, which occasioned her death. I was then a youth about fourteen years old. Even at that tender age her death-bed prognostications were very alarming to me, in recommending strongly to my example the merits of my deceased father, as the better trust for a future livelihood than any expectations of a fortune in my guardian's hands. After the duties of her funeral were performed, the first visit I paid was to my guardian, deeply affected with the impression which the words of my dying mother had made upon me. He very soon took occasion to tell me, that I must now think of looking out for some business to enter into, my fortune in his hands being, as he said, so very small and insignificant, thro' the extravagance and ill conduct of my father ; at the same time he threw out some accusations against him for his better generosity. I had strength of mind patiently to behold myself an outcast to the world. I had temper and spirit to bear and despise the avaricious fraud of so great a villain : but tho' I did not remember my father, yet having heard so many people talk of his virtues to me, I could not submit to any lie or infamy to be scratched on the fair monument of his fame. I insulted the old villain as a liar ; I accused him of fraud, and upbraided him with ingratitude to his friend's remains. In short, our passions on both sides growing equally high (as he was not used to contradiction) we took up weapons against each other ; and though he was in years, yet considering my boyhood, the match had in it no ungenerous inequality : however, I gained much the advantage ; and when his servants with his daughter (who was his only child, and heir to all his fortune) interposed, my hand was fastened to his throat, and I believe had soon stopped his life ; but on her appearance I disengaged me from my hold, and excusing myself to her in a manner due to her affinity and my own justification,

retired.

retired. I then applied to some of my father's acquaintances for assistance to recover my fortune, or a genteel maintenance out of my guardian's hands. Every one almost answered me in dumb shew, with expressive shrugs, or commiserating shakings of the head. Some indeed went so far as to give an opinion, "that it was a pity my father's son should be put to any necessities for a genteel living;" and one or two promised me, that they would speak to him for something to be done in my behalf; but when I waited on them again for their answer, I was upbraided by them for my past conduct, in offering to lift my arm against my guardian, a second parent; and dismissed with a coolness that told me I was very undeserving of favour. Under these circumstances sitting one morning alone, very pensive, a young negro girl left with my servant a present for me of a water-melon, wrapped up in a small basket; and went off before I could enquire to whom I was obliged. Taking it out, I found it very heavy, and could perceive it had been cut and joined together. It owed its weight to a large present of gold. My pride here got the better of my gratitude. What, said I, am I become a dependant on charity, to be fed by alms? I threw it on the ground, and upbraided my servant for taking it in; but at last reason gained the rule, at my servant's offering to take it away out of my sight. I took it up myself, and put to its proper uses. There was a young gentleman of the place, a man of large fortune, my intimate and acquaintance: he was in love with my guardian's daughter, to whose courtship (as from several circumstances there was no expectancy of gaining a father's consent) I had been very administering in delivering letters, at the frequent visits of business or ceremony which my mother used to pay the house; for she always carried me with her. But I never was so successful in my embassy as to bring my friend any answer back. Though I now could be no longer his assistant, and he knew it, yet I imagined this compliment to my distress came from him. I taxed him with it: he seriously disclaimed the

the merit of it, but generously offered me his friendship in that or any other way in his power; and indeed he was the only solace of conversation and familiar of sincere friendship I had at all times recourse to. I on the other hand continued the trusty confident of his love, and was generally his attendant to the silent window at night of his beautiful mistress, who frequently was there to receive us, and in her address and behaviour was truly amiable, tho' no ways encouraging to the hopes of a lover, even to be complaisant to me, notwithstanding the disorder of spirits my attack on her father had thrown her into, which I heard had cost her a fit of illness. But amidst all this friendship, which for upwards of four years was uninterrupted and lively, I never once was reduced to the blush of accepting the convenience of his purse, though every day offered it. My still unknown benefactor attacked me a thousand ways with a like liberality, and took me every time unguarded. To tell the many and elegant stratagems made use of to deceive me into an easy acceptance of so much bounty, would take up more time than I ought to trespass on you, for a recital of the whole story. One morning I received a formal challenge from a person, unknown, to meet at a certain spot, but to bring no second. I went, and at the appointed place, on a tree, hung a writing with these words in a woman's hand, *Strike at my heart*. I went to take it down, and found it only the outside label of a weighty purse of gold. Alas! said I, smiling, you are a dangerous enemy to engage; and I own you have before conquered me: however, for this once, I take you away prisoner. Another time at night I was met by a slave, who rudely and suddenly threw a mantle or short cloak over my head and face. I imagined an assassination. Villain, said I, tearing it off my face, and drawing my sword, when no person appearing, I took up the mantle, which was a fine piece of gold and silver embroidery in needlework, with these characters, *You have struck my heart and ought to be my prisoner*; and at the four corners hung

hang by way of tassels four gold knit purses, richly filled. These kind of presents grew so familiar to me, that I insensibly began to conceive I had some angel-steward above, who knew all my necessities, and provided accordingly: for I gave a loose to the pleasurable pursuits of youth, almost totally neglected my guardian's debt to me, or not considering it was any part of my dependance.

One day, my friend came to me with transports in his eyes and gestures. "Read that letter, says he, from my dear Isabella," throwing it on the table. When I took it up, my surprize kept equal pace with his joy, not so much at the contents, as at the hand, which I knew to be the same that wrote the label on the tree. However, the contents were sufficient to cover all my confusion, which my countenance expressed at it. They gave an account of her father then lying at the point of death, and desired him to come to her house at a certain hour that night in a priest's habit, and to bring me with him drest in the like disguise, when we should be admitted on business of much importance. We attended in every particular conforming to the appointment, and were introduced to an apartment, where the lady made her appearance, and with great grace addressing herself to my friend, said, "I dare say you will excuse my asking your assistance in this private manner, as it intends the service of your friend. My father has now entered upon his last hour of intelligent life, being now in his senses, which he obtains at intervals between very violent deliriums. His physicians assure me, that his next fit of frenzy will be his end. I know the high demand this gentleman has on him for a fortune, which for some purposes, of which I am ignorant, has been concealed. I mean to make no excuses for my father, where heaven has taken away all excuse by giving such abundant blessings to his peculiar share. I have therefore solicited an account from him; but he declines giving any to me, saying, he will make confessions of it to his fathers, and give a sufficient restitution to them. Now, Sir,

as I am willing to do justice to this injured gentleman, I considered that the church would conceal the confession, to secure to itself the gift of restitution; and as my father is now so far spent, as not to be able to discover the fraud, which I mean with a good intention to impose upon him; if I have your consent to it, I will admit you into the chamber to take his confession; and as none other except his physicians have been admitted to him in his deliriums, you need fear no present interruption or future detection. If you satisfy yourselves about the particulars, as to the fortune, you may depend upon my after execution of what is just; and I dare say, I shall do his soul more good by a return of the whole to the proper owner, than by any gift to the church of a part." This was spoke with such a tender duty for a dying father, as visibly revealed in her a fear and concern for his having done amiss; at the same time it shewed such an unbounded generosity of mind, that we could not but admire the whole with wonder as in silence. We were accordingly admitted into the chamber where the sick man lay, who by a glimmering light was so easily deceived in us as to reveal the important secret. For my friend played the priest extremely well; and being a man of humour, bartered much about the sum to be paid to the church in the place of restitution. For my part I was almost totally silent, but oftentimes could scarcely refrain my smiles. When we withdrew, his daughter waited to receive us. I was almost afraid to repeat the sum mentioned, lest the largeness of it (as it was very considerable) should be beyond what her generosity, though great, had intended to bestow. She did not shew the least surprise at it; but telling us that she would at the proper time ask us to a more public visit, wished us good night, as, she said, she had some ceremonies to see discharged to her father in his next return of frenzy, which was now every moment expected; recommending it to us to keep this affair in the mean time a secret. The next day we received a public account of her father's dying mad, under the office of extream
unction.

unction. I dare say from the witness I myself was to his latter moments, that the frenzy of his mind was but the outside illness, or effect of a troubled conscience within.

My next reflections you may imagine were upon the past behaviour of my guardian angel, for such her appearance in her whole conduct was to me. My friend was greatly alert and elevated, prethinking her his future bride; nor did his generosity and love for me envy me my future expectations of such a promised fortune, diminishing his own; but I was in no small pain on his account. I was conscious of her regard for me in the many tokens sent with the multitude of her bounties. I could then plainly discover a reservedness in her to him in our late interview, and well account for her former exactness of address and decorum through all the past, flattering myself that the frequent opportunities she gave him of nightly scenes at her window, were owing to her desire of my company, and so it was. The time was not long before she sent for us, sooner indeed than we could suppose her affairs in a readiness. Our invitation was to an entertainment where were many of her friends, before whom she took an opportunity of acquainting me, "that her father before his death had mentioned to a friend, that such a portion of his personal effects belonged to me; but that she believed he had in his passion destroyed most of my papers on receiving the late affront from me: wherefore if I was content with the account, she was ready to return it." You may again judge my happiness, and the whole company's approbation and wonder at her beauteous conduct. Even my friend was to his cost delighted; but afterwards, when the first sallies of my joy began to give way to reflection, I sunk into a severe melancholy and thought how to discharge myself with honour between love and friendship. You cannot be surprized, if I say, I sincerely was in love, and gratitude also threw its stronger bonds on my inclinations. I blessed my fate that had so separated us for the past years, lest by growing up with her perfections, I had become so

familiar to them (which is often the case between brother and sister) as not to feel the strong notice of them, which I did by being awaked at once into the light. I saw her passion for me at every instance discover itself, and even my friend now began to think her behaviour too reserved to his courtship, as short of his expectations, or self-promises of her favour; and perceiving also my alteration of mind, he insisted, as I thought, with a jealousy upon knowing the cause. I thought it more consistent with our friendship to reveal to him, that it was upon his account I had entertained any concern at my present fortune, and disclosed my whole breast to him, and my opinions of her love. His eyes were opened; he saw the truth as clear as I did; confusion of mind and loss of all sense deprived him of himself. He fainted in my arms. I recovered him to life, but not to his senses; anger, rage, and revenge now took place. He drew his sword, and shortening it made a stroke at me, which I avoided, and with the utmost pity took my leave, giving him over to time to bring his distempered mind to health and reason. But his frenzy did not leave him: he spoke aloud his complaints against me, as of a false friend, who had robbed him of his love. He more madly spoke of the late transaction of our imposing on the deceased father, and I immediately had notice from my friends to prepare for my escape; for upon his imprudent discovery, the power of the convent would otherwise have taken hold of me instantly. My first thoughts of providing for myself were soon changed into a total care for my beauteous guardian, who was rather more guilty than myself, as the generous contriver of the plot. I hastened to her, revealed our mutual danger with the freeness of an approved lover; for the danger put by all ceremony, and she in like manner was surprized into the same behaviour. The alternative was to fly away together, or be doomed to all worldly adversity, if we staid. We engaged two particular friends of great consequence in strict fidelity to us: to them we conveyed our larger boxes of treasure, and taking with us

us all our jewels and a large quantity of money, we left Lima in the night with a man and woman-servant, in a swift carriage. Our friends wisely barricaded both our houses, and deserted them; by this means the ceremony of breaking open first the one and then the other (as the fraternity thought we must be concealed in one of them) took up most of the next day, and favoured our escape; for they came, as expected, and perceiving us gone, took possession of both our houses and all the rich furniture in them, in part of retaliation of the particular sum bequeathed to them by the deceased, which particular also our frantic friend revealed, and hereby got pardon and absolution for himself. But he did not enjoy life long: he was pitied by some, despised by others, hated by himself, and died in some months after. Much to be lamented it is, that when we neglect the watch over ourselves, our passions often take such ungovernable fire, and rage over the fair palace of reason!—In twenty four hours we were several leagues on our way to Panama, from whence, as our design was, we crossed over to Porto-Bello, and there took shipping for Europe. We got safe to Spain. It would be indulging myself too unfairly in a partial entertainment, were I to tell the various scenes, through which we passed in our travels with the greatest happiness, as not one misfortune attended us in the whole. The pleasant times of courtship, the alternate accounts of her contrivances in sending, and of my surprized acceptances of her past favours, and our mutual endeavours to be agreeable to each other, added a peculiar pleasure to ourselves, amidst the beautiful variety of scenes; for the strictest decorum of respect was on my side preserved, and an uncensurable conduct on her's. We did not think it safe to make any great stay in Old Spain, but went soon to France, and from thence to Holland. In short, we were the happiest pair, were blessed with lovely children, had seen many of the polite courts, settled our affairs at Lima by our interest in Spain, and at last returned thither with the principal command. I must just stop to tell

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you, that the terms by which we made peace with the church, were by paying down the real sum stipulated between my friend and wife's father for a restitution. I cannot but smile even now, when I reflect on the acting of that deceit. Little did I then think, that the mockery of our increasing the dues of restitution, as a right of our profession, which was then a matter of such pleasantry, should be now in earnest paid.

Here the gentleman made a full stop as at having concluded his story: and had we imagined the remaining part to have been so tragical a scene, after so pleasing a walk of entertaining life, our good nature would have checked our further enquiry, which our worse bred curiosity was too forward in asking.

My house, says he, though standing apart from the rest of the city, was a large structure in itself, sufficient to effect its own ruin. At the time of the earthquake, which happened on a sudden upon the clearest and most temperate day which the skies ever seemed to compose as a blessing to mankind, I was in a hall in the midst of the town on a public occasion. The universal crack burst like a bolt of thunder on the ear of every sense; its rolling noise, as it passed off, continued for some minutes of time. The earth shook, and kept its fit of trembling; houses, churches, whole streets of building sunk or tumbled every way in ruins. Walls were seen to open and close again as on joints; till at last the whole city became a mountain of rubbish, and devoured most of its inhabitants within its own bowels. The sea joined in the common depredation. It swelled over the streets and ruins; then, as struck with the general terror, it run back with as strong a reflux; then flowed again repeatedly, till it at last settled like a balance to itself. To describe the various terrors of the people would be to paint so many various faces, but all held in this one opinion, that it was the last day of nature. Some run out on the strand after the sea, and were by its sudden return again instantly overwhelmed; some made to the fields and country, but most of them were caught, or inter-
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apted in the ruins, tumbling on their heads. I was preserved from the falling roof of the hall, by a kind of arched canopy over my head; I got clear of the surrounding heap as soon as possible, and rushing through all danger, and mounting over hills of ruins, I found my way unhurt to my own home; which afforded still, if possible, a more heart-felt shock to that part of human nature which I shared. The whole was a ruined heap; my wife, children, and servants, all below the disfigured mass. I had every assistance could be given, and we removed the rubbish with an expedition that scarce seemed tedious to my eager wishes. Out of five children, heaven saved me three, who are now alive; my wife was also taken up alive, but crushed and wounded beyond cure. Here you may judge a scene of tears; but amidst this our sorrow, her pious soul saw reason, for which to thank the heavenly director of all things that she lived to behold me preserved to defend in life our remaining children. Her death was at last some ease to my own heart; as it put a being out of pain, whose better place of existence was to be in happiness.

Some few days after his telling this story, he expressing much curiosity about the manner of a sea-fight, Mr. Walker ordered a general exercise of the great guns of our own and the other ships, that is, of running them out to take aim, and in again, as in an engagement, with firing of the small arms, one ship against another. These exercises we also practiced at other times, as they made the men more regular in their actions, when the engagement became real. The commodore in this manner gave him the representation of a sea-engagement, which was performed by all the ships with great alacrity, and shewed the grandeur of such actions without the terror. At this and some other marks of respect, he expressed great acknowledgment of pleasure and thanks; he afterwards went ashore at Lagos-Bay, as before mentioned, in his way to High-mount, where he proved a faithful minister in obtaining the discharge of our men, in return to the civilities he had received.—As we

stood in for Lagos-Bay, with little wind, we saw three settees about three leagues to the westward, supposed to be Spaniards. We immediately hoisted out our barge and yawl, and sent them in pursuit of them; the Prince Frederick also sent both her's, the commodore having given her the Princess Amelia's barge in the place of her own. In the evening, about eight o'clock, we saw our boats in the Offing return with two of the settees, being Spaniards; the other had run ashore under the fort, which fired at our boats to prevent their pursuing. Upon our first observing our boats with their prizes, our ships came to an anchor; the Spaniards had made a stout resistance, which deserved compliment equally speaks the attack as bold on our side. They had one man killed and several wounded; we had two lieutenants, a gunner, and six other men wounded, two of whom afterwards died. Our barge brought the two captains on board us: they were Catalonians, and the prizes were the St. Mazine and St. Christopher from Barcelona, bound to Lisbon, with raisins and silk handkerchiefs.

When we had just finished our watering, October the sixth, the last and most severe engagement happened, which for its various accidents and catastrophes has been equalled by few, but exceeded by none. Mr. Walker in the Boscawen had before engaged and overcome six armed Martinico ships at one time, yet they were each inferior to him. Here he had a Colossus singly to encounter, whose smallest ball well placed was sufficient to have sent his floating castle of defence to the bottom of the ocean. But to our story.

October the 6th, the King George and Prince Frederick having just compleated their watering, and coming out clear of the bay, about five o'clock in the morning, the Prince Frederick saw a large sail under her lee-quarter standing to the northward, towards Cape St. Vincent, the wind N. E. Upon which the commodore threw out the signal for chasing: the Prince Frederick being further in the Offing, keeping to the southward, whilst the commodore endeavoured to get between the chase, and the land to cut her
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off from thence ; and seeing her a ship of force, dispatched one of the settees, (whom he had immediately employed as tenders) to the Princess Amelia, which was the only ship that had not yet finished her watering, and was still at an anchor in the bay, with orders for captain Riddle to weigh his anchor instantly and follow him, which he did. The Duke and Prince George, which ships were the first that had compleated their watering, having been ordered to the eastward to cruise, were now in sight ; and perceiving the signal to chase, they continued the pursuit for about an hour, and then strangely brought-to, contrary to the repeated signals thrown out by the commodore. The chase by this conduct in the pursuit, seeing herself likely to be hemmed in by the two ships, the King George and Prince Frederick, was obliged to bear away, making all the sail she could to the westward ; without doubt taking us for larger ships than we were, whilst we took her for a less than she really was. We continued in this pursuit for upwards of five hours, at which time she shewed no colours. At last, about 12 o'clock, the King George came up with her : when all on a sudden it fell a dead-calm, in which we lay within gun-shot of each other : the Duke and Prince George were quite out of sight, the Prince Frederick to the southward also becalmed, and the Princess Amelia not yet come up. In this situation the chase all at once hoisted colours and run out her lower tier ; when we perceived her a seventy four gun ship : but there being little or no wind to spread her colours, we could not distinguish whether they were Spanish or Portueguese. We lay in some suspense what to make of her ; taking her, if a Spaniard, to be one of the rich homeward bound ships expected with the year's money from the West-Indies, of which the commodore had intelligence ; but with this difference, that none of them were said to exceed fifty-four guns. Whilst we lay thus in view of each other, not yet confirmed in our opinions of her, nor as yet determined what step to take, but waiting for some motion to be first made from her

side ; in about an hour she hauled in her lower tier, and shut her ports. The commodore at this opportunity consulted with his officers what to do ; they were all of opinion by this her behaviour that she was a monied ship, and gave their vioces for engaging. About five o'clock in the evening a small breeze springing up from the northward, she again directed her course to the eastward towards Cape St. Vincent ; which confirmed the opinion of her being one of those treasure ships ; and that she wanted on that account to get under the protection of the port. The commodore, as we have said, having founded the inclinations of his officers and men (who had sufficient time to consider the great odds against them, if they had been the least afraid) and perceiving them till desirous of engaging, gave orders to renew the chase. We got up-along side to her with all expedition and alertness, expecting to be soon joined by the Prince Frederick, who was now some greater distance astern than before, occasioned by our getting the wind before it reached her.

It was now eight o'clock, and a clear moon-shine evening. On coming up to the chase, we first hailed her in Portuguese, but received no answer : we then spoke to her in English ; when without answering our question, she likewise hailed us in English, and asked the name of our ship ; we replied the King George. Without further word or notice she then instantly gave us the prepared fire of her whole broadside, which dismounted two of our guns, and brought down our main top-sail yard ; this smart salute, as we lay ready on our arms, was as suddenly returned. Thus the unequal contest began : the Spaniards repeated their firings with incessant warmth, but not with a continued execution ; for tho' they fired as fast as they could, yet their firings after the two first broadsides were extremely irregular, only firing four or six guns at one time ; owing, we may suppose, to the great weight of their guns, which made them less governable than ours were to us. And in this we had the advantage of them from our nearness ; for as we con-

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tinued to fire our broad sides, so equally regular and well through out the whole engagement, that the last was near as good as the first, not a shot could possibly miss them, and thereby also the fire of our small arms took place ; which like a storm of fiery hail beat against the enemy with such incessant force, that as we were afterwards informed, they fled from their quarters more than once. And here great remembrance must be paid to Mr. James Riddle our captain of marines, and brother to captain Riddle of the Princess Amelia. He commanded these firings so resolutely, regularly, and quick, that the muskets grew so hot in the hands of the men as to oblige them during the action to take three changes. Had we been at a greater distance, the Spaniard could have directed his guns with better aim at our rigging, and perhaps have sooner disabled us therein ; but by mostly pointing them at our hull with an intent to sink us ; as every gun was expected to do the office ; many of the balls lodged between wind and water ; for by the nearness there was not space for them all to come to a rise. Our men fought like lions ; the prospect of so great a prize before them, though a thought of too bold a daring, animated them up to feats of valour. Mr. Walker, who no doubt felt a pleasing satisfaction in beholding such bravery of his men, was still looking out for the other ships to come up to his assistance ; rather thinking, from the great odds of the enemy, that if he remained much longer unassisted, he must fall a prey to them or the seas. He fought and commanded with a calmness almost peculiar to himself. Every man else in the ship appeared a creature actuated with a headstrong spirit of bravery ; which seemed to absorb or collect in it all other thoughts. In short, the whole ship was an engine from every part of her of missive fire ; and yet among ourselves we were in no confusion, but all orders even in the greatest heat of action were deliberately, tho' with expedition, obeyed ; attentive to our duties, and not out-running our abilities in the execution.

During the whole time of the action, which in this manner lasted above three hours, yard arm to yard arm, the castle upon Cape St. Vincent fired very briskly, as a neutral power commanding peace; and we, being the nearest to it, received many of its shots. Thus we were almost the whole engagement between two fires; but it did us no great damage, on account of its distance. The nearer challenge to our best powers set the more remote danger almost out of the view of our attention; for by the closeness of the fight, our main-sail actually took fire from the lighted wadding of the enemy's guns. And here a proof may be shewn of Mr. Walker's ease and steadiness of temper in the heat of action and business. Having dispatched up a number of men to extinguish the blaze, another man officiously running up also, Mr. Walker called him back, and reprimanding him for going without orders, sent him to his place; saying, "He had ordered enough, as he thought, on the business, and when they did not do their duty, he would then send for him." Thus in all extremities the exactest discipline was preserved.

Though we had received many shots in our hull, yet from the great number fired, our rigging could not boast of any escape: for all our braces and main top-sail yard were shot away, the fore-mast quite disabled, and the main-mast damaged. We could not work our ship, and bravery became now a virtue of necessity. Never sure was a contest more terrible, and, however fatal on one side (as we could never learn their exact numbers killed) yet conducted with so little loss on ours! for we had but one man killed and fifteen wounded, seven of whom afterwards died. This preservation was owing no doubt to the same method of elm-planking in the place of nettings, with which every ship was provided; as is described in the *Boscawen*.

At eleven o'clock, the enemy to our great surprise made sail, and left us the field of battle. It was an easy running away; for we were not able

to follow. But I must here mention what is due to Mr. Dottin's merit of the Prince Frederick; that he endeavoured to get up to us during the engagement as fast as he could; but there was so little wind, that it was half an hour after ten o'clock, or about half an hour before the enemy went off, when he came a-stern of us, upon the enemy's larboard quarter, and began firing with what guns he could bring to bear; which certainly drew some part of the enemy's attention towards him; for he had three of his men dangerously wounded, two of whom had both their legs shot away: but he was not at all disabled in his rigging. However, the commodore did not give him any orders yet to chase, lest we might spring a leak or other accident might happen to us in the night: but two sail appearing to windward, and false fires being made, which were answered, we knew them to be part of our fleet, and grew happy in the thought that our friends were gathering round us. Early at the break of day Mr. Dotten came on board: as he came up the side, he asked "whether the commodore was alive," and when he saw the ship full of men, and missed none of the officers or his friends, he stood in amazement for some time, before his surprise could let loose his joy; he then ran into the commodore's arms. At six o'clock the Prince George came up, who had rowed all night to us by the report of the engagement: and told us that the Duke and the two settees were a-stern, all which ships, having first compleated their watering, had been sent on their station to the eastward. Pity it was, that we had not met this high antagonist, when we were all under way on our regular cruise. If so, we had certainly made a surer and safer conquest of her: but, as it before has been observed, when we first saw her, we had not all left our watering-place, and were not together in a readiness for engaging. All our ships being now come together, except the Princess Amelia, who was even at an anchor when we first begun the chase, the commodore put the Duke and Prince George under the command of the
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Prince Frederick, captain Dottin, and sent them all three in pursuit of the enemy, keeping the two settees to attend upon us: whilst we, having all the night made the best resit we could, though still maimed and crippled, slowly followed after; hoping to come up at last to compleat the conquest we had so near won.

As on the one hand, the ships sent after the chace retired from our view; on the other, a large ship came up towards us from the eastward. We were but in a sad condition to make any resistance, and were not a little alarmed at the fear (if an enemy) of being taken an easy prey, thus unprepared for a fresh ship: but those fears ceased, as in her approaches to us, we discovered her to be an English man of war. The commodore, believing her to be the Jersey, captain Hardy, who we before met, and being desirous that no time should be lost in giving information of the chace in view, wrote a letter to him as the ship was coming up: acquainting him, "that the fleet to the westward were his ships in pursuit of a Spanish man of war, who had engaged him the night before, and whom he hoped would fall an easy conquest to a ship of his force." This letter he directed to captain Hardy, or to the commanding officer on board, and sent it by one of the boats of the settees to meet him (our own boats being intirely shot into splinters) in order that he should not be retarded in the pursuit. This proved to be the Russel man of war, commanded by captain Buckle, who opened the letter, and as he would not wait writing, sent his compliments back to Mr. Walker by word, "that he thanked him for the contents, and would observe them." He immediately crouded all his sail and hastened after them. The Princess Amelia next came in sight, whom we knew by the signals she first threw out upon seeing us. The commodore in like manner dispatched her also after the chace, and now our whole fleet was in close pursuit; and tho' we could not keep up with them, yet in our place was the Russel, a ship of eighty guns.

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And now a new scene began : for we perceived the head-most ship engaged, which we took for the Prince Frederick, as she led our other ships and was the best sailer. Yet we counted one more than our number among the croud ; but could not tell whence she came. The commodore, as he stood observing them with his glass upon the deck, greatly blamed captain Dottin of the Prince Frederick for engaging before the other ships had closed also on the chase ; for now perceiving the fire to grow very brisk, he said aloud, *Dottin will fire away all his cartridges at too great a distance, and afterwards be obliged to load with loose powder, by which some fatal accident may happen.* Scarce had he pronounced these words, when upon giving a broadside she appeared a pillar of smoke in the air. *She's gone, oh heavens !* cries the commodore, *Dottin and all his brave fellows are now no more.* Sir, says one of the officers, standing by him, *'tis only the smoke of her last broadside.* *'Tis a dreadful truth you tell,* replies the commodore : *for 'tis the last she will ever give.* The smoke being soon dispelled, no ship was to be seen ; from which we too assuredly knew the truth. Of all the sudden changes of fortune which ever lay in prospect before a number of men, elate with pursuing victory, and confident of success, sure never did one appear more suddenly astonishing and affecting than this ! grief took place, visible in the pale countenance of each common man as well as officer : No distinguishing of sorrow was to be made amongst them. The commodore seeing his officers so sunk in their spirits, and consequently the men discouraged, stepped aside off the quarter deck into the round house, whither his officers followed him. *Gentlemen,* says he, *if we have a tear to drop, let it be here. Yet whilst it shews us men to pay this remembrance to our friends past out of life ; 'tis the part of soldiers to bear up against the affliction, that like our other enemies, would overcome us. Especially it is now necessary to do so, at least in appearance before my men : as affairs may take a new turn with us ; and as in case*
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of meeting with a new enemy, this too much concern in you may beget a diffidence in them. At the moment he cloied his words, a violent explosion broke aloud in our own ship, like a rattling or thrilling thunder. The commodore running out, doubly alarmed, as well as each of us, by the shock so sudden on the back of the other, saw all the decks deserted, the men scared, either clinging by the ropes at the outside of the ship, just ready to let themselves down into the sea, or running out on the bowsprit end, all expecting the moment of her blowing up. So easily may the minds of the bravest men be affected with a sudden surprize, when prepossessed by any previous fear ! He quickly saw whence proceeded the noise and firing. Having, as we said, put ourselves in the night in the best order we could, one of the first businesses was to clean and load our arms in readiness for a new attack. The small arms, thus prepared, were laid upon the gratings on the quarter-deck, and covered with a crojack-sail, whilst the arm chests were set to air ; and one of the men in some hurry of duty springing giddily over them, struck one of the cocks, which flashing made almost a total discharge of the whole, and set all the cartouch-boxes a-bursting and flying off. When the commodore ran out, several of the arms still kept firing on each side, and the crojack-sail soon blazed out and set fire to some part of the quarter-deck. Not a man was obedient to his call, or ventured giving any resistance, but said captain James Riddle, and our honest and brave chaplain, a very worthy gentleman ; who with the commodore ventured themselves boldly, notwithstanding the frequent firings, in bringing water and extinguishing the flames. But chiefly to Mr. Riddle's great activity, boldness, and presence of mind in this extremity of things, it was owing, that a more fatal accident did not happen. No person was hurt but the man who had occasioned the accident, and who by as giddily jumping off at the ends, where the guns pointed both ways, was shot dead, and lay there by the side of
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the arms: but had not Providence, who in almost every act designs several ends, sent the commodore and his officers off the deck in private condolence for the supposed loss of their friends, and partners in the war, most if not all of them must have perished as they stood around the arms.

The unfortunate ship which was blown up was the Dartmouth man of war, captain James Hamilton, who being the night before several leagues to the westward, and hearing the report of the guns in the late engagement, made the best of his way to the point from which he heard the firing, and in plying up to windward fell in with our chase first, and engaged her before our ships came up, and being the headmost of the fleet was imagined by us to be the Prince Frederick. He engaged the enemy in a running fight very warmly for about an hour and half with his bow chase, which the Spaniard as briskly returned with his stern, and had come almost to a close engagement, when the Prince Frederick had now brought her bow chase to bear, and had also begun to engage; in the beginning of which close engagement the Dartmouth blew up. Lucky it was for many of her people, that the Prince Frederick was so near, she immediately got out her boats to their assistance, which the Duke did likewise, being also near enough to lend her aid. They took up about seventeen of them alive, among whom there was no one of any rank except Mr. O'Brien, who was a young gentleman of Ireland, and then an acting lieutenant. He was taken up, recovered to his senses, floating on the carriage of a gun, on which he had been blown out of the ship into the water. He was a young gentleman of great ease in behaviour, and of an happy readiness of wit; which talents he has since improved to the gaining the esteem, as he before engaged the favour, of mankind. His first salute to Mr. Dottin was, *Sir, you must excuse the unfitness of my dress to come aboard a strange ship; but really I left my own in such a hurry, that I had no time to stay for a change.* This easy turn of thought amidst the melancholy scene lightened the
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consideration of the present distress, and made true the reflection, "that good humour is halfway to philosophy." Of all the persons saved, Mr. Obrien was the only one who could give any account of the affair; which was this. Being sent on a message from captain Hamilton to the officer who commanded below, as he was down between decks, he was met by the gunner who attended the magazine, staring, wild and trembling: he asked Mr. Obrien, where the captain was? "Where should he be but upon deck, says Mr. Obrien, but what's the matter?" "O, Sir, the magazine! At which word the explosion happened, and he knew no more till he found himself floating on his new bark in the midst of the sea. His escape was the more extraordinary, as he was between decks when the explosion happened; which one would imagine to be a certain place of death. But he was in all supposition blown out sideways, in the same direction in which the carriage was sent also, and so alighted on it as it buoyed up in the water; for he has often assured us that he did not get upon it by swimming or catching hold of it, as he found himself on it the moment he was sensible.

After taking up the men and getting in the boats, in which interim the chase had made all the sail she could to the westward, the Prince Frederick and Duke renewed their chase, and by this time were also happily joined by the Russel. And now again another scene began in the pursuit and conquest of this bold though flying enemy; for never did Spaniards, nor indeed men, fight a ship better than they did this. Our fleet pursued her all night, in which we lost sight of them; but conjectured the success of the engagement from the report of the guns: for hearing them repeated about two o'clock in the morning, we supposed it renewed, and hearing no more of them after three, concluded the enemy had struck. And our conjectures were very near the truth; for about that hour in the morning the three Ships came within a gun-shot of the chase, when the Russel began the engagement, which became very bloody. All the ships continued
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their firings with their utmost vigour and smartness, which were with great bravery returned by the Spaniard. The *Russel* had sixteen men killed and wounded, all her boats shot away, several shots between wind and water; yet she did equal execution upon the enemy: at last a shot from her took away the Spaniard's main-top mast; upon which he fired a single gun and struck. The prize was the *Glorioso* man of war of seventy-four guns, seven hundred and fifty men, had been but seven days from the *Groynes*, and bound to *Cadiz*. The *Russel* was of eighty guns, but had only three hundred and seventy men. The number of prisoners was so great, that captain Buckle had a deal to manage. He made use of the *Prince Frederick's* and *Duke's* barges in transporting the prisoners on board his own ship and them; and took sixty of the *Prince Frederick's* men and forty of the *Duke's* on board the *Russel* for her greater security. Notwithstanding this, the men growing mutinous by their great numbers, he was obliged to hold a consultation with the captains *Dottin* and *Denham* how to dispose of them. At this time the *Prince George* coming up, it was instantly concluded, that she should take in as many as she could, which were about two hundred; and that the *Prince Frederick* should conduct them safe into *Lisbon*. The Prize was so shattered, that the three following days were employed chiefly in repairing her, before she could make any great sail; which when they had put somewhat to rights, the whole proceeded to *Lisbon*.—When we consider the great bravery of this ship in the several severe engagements she encountered of two men of war and three large privateers, we cannot but the more wonder at the first bold attack of our own ship the *King George*; who fought her so many hours in her full strength and vigour, and at last obliged her to run.

In the morning of the engagement, we have said, we lost sight of the whole fleet, except the *Princess Amelia*, who had been dispatched much later than the rest after the chase, and was to the westward of

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us, but who, also having lost sight of the other ships, again rejoined us. We then in conjunction with her and the two settees stretched away to the westward, the wind N. N. E. in expectation of falling in again with them: but seeing nothing of them, we gave over the search, and again set about getting our own ship in as good plight as we could, to act upon the defensive in case of meeting with an enemy (in which business we had been employed ever since the time of the action) for as to pursuing one, we were not yet in any condition.

October the ninth, about nine o'clock in the morning, we saw three sail also to the westward, the one the most to leeward seemed to be a very large ship, from which circumstance we concluded her to be the prize, with some of our ships; and accordingly bore down to them, but found the two most to windward large Dutch ships from Cadiz, bound to Amsterdam. They informed us, that the large ship at the leeward of them was a French man of war of sixty guns, who had spoke with them the night before. This account threw our ship into some hurry of preparation; but whilst others were giving orders for the necessary matters, the commodore set himself down calmly to write a letter home by them to the managers, with the circumstances of our late engagement, our present situation, and the other matters as we then knew them, and kept the Dutch-men till he had finished. When he had dismissed them he then addressed us: *Gentlemen, I need not tell you that we are in a worse condition to run than fight. I say not this as chusing at this time to lead you on to an engagement; but that, if one be unavoidable, we had better begin with the enemy by day-light, than wait for their attacking us with greater advantage to themselves by night; and if we made a ship of seventy-four guns run away by night, why not one of sixty by day? 'Tis therefore my opinion we should bear down upon the ship in view, as the most probable means of avoiding the greater disadvantages of an engagement with her.* The men giving three cheers of resolution to do as he directed.

we immediately bore down on the supposed enemy, not being in a capacity to act less courageously. But very agreeably to ourselves, as we drew near her, we perceived her by the cut of her sails and rigging to be an English ship, and so brought-to along-side of her. She was the Bedford man of war, commodore now admiral Townshend, whose goodness and civility, if I may be allowed the phrase at sea, were very neighbourly; for being informed of the severe engagement we had been in, he offered us any of his majesty's stores, that we might have occasion for, and all other assistance in his power: but we being in no want of any thing of the kind, having refitted as well as the situation of affairs would allow, acknowledged his civility in our best return of thanks. He then parted with us, and stood to the N. W.

The four following days, still in search of our fleet, we saw several distant sail, alone and in company, which we chased in hopes of meeting with, or hearing some intelligence of our fleet: but all proving Dutchmen, Swedes, or English, we neither saw nor heard any thing of our ships, till the fourteenth, being then in sight of land about six or seven leagues from the rock of Lisbon; when about seven in the evening, we fell in with the Duke, and soon after saw the fleet to windward. Captain Denham informed us that the fleet in view were our ships, the *Russel*, and their prize the *Glorioso*, a Spanish man of war; which ship we had received accounts of, some months before, as computed to have in value above three millions sterling: he also gave us an account of the accident of the *Dartmouth*, and of the safety of the *Prince Frederick*. This news could not fail of elevating our men to an high pitch of transport, at the supposition of our being in possession of so large a share of fortune. But the account of the safety of our friends was a degree of joy, if possible, above transport. Upon this news the commodore, who endeavoured to give all the pleasure in his power, as well as satisfaction to his owners, dispatched one of the
settees

settees for England to brighten the cloudy accounts sent in his letter through the channel of the Dutchman.

The next day we had the pleasure of seeing the prize and Prince Frederick. And here I must in justice to the good hearts of the men, so soon repeat the remark, that in seeing the last, they gave greater expressions of joy both in voice and gesture, than in their salutations of the prize, though imagined to be full of money. The commodore and captain Riddle immediately went aboard the *Russel*. Captain Buckle received them on the quarter-deck, where were also the Spanish captain and some of his officers. Captain Buckle introduced Mr. Walker to the Spanish commander, who turned aside to shed a moment's tears, and then addressed him with great tenderness, "By you, says he, I have lost a darling son, but 'twas the fortune of the war, no fault of yours. Yet, though your honours be my misfortunes, I wish they had found some better reward than the bare glory only of reducing so great a ship: for she carries nothing but great guns, having landed all our treasure at the Groyne, before she met you." This certainly was meant a compliment; but never was a more blank one paid before, as in the account of there being no treasure on board. But Mr. Walker, recovering himself from his surprize, told him "It was yet a satisfaction to him to see that so brave a man as he had escaped the danger; and that though it was his misfortune to be overcome, yet it could never be thought a discredit to him to have struck to his majesty's ship the *Russel*."

As Mr. Walker at first intended to send both the settees to England, he that evening dispatched the other also home with the present news, lest the managers should vainly imagine themselves richer than they were, or indeed needed to be. However, she was so fine and compleat a ship, that his Portuguese majesty afterwards offered for her thirty thousand moidores, wanting her at the time of the Goa expedition against the rebellion and massacre that happened there.

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Next morning the commodore sent for Mr. O'Brien from on board the Prince Frederick, as he was much burnt, to have him under his own surgeon, the gentleman we have so often mentioned. Under his care Mr. O'Brien soon recovered, and by his agreeable deportment and much good humour, made our whole company happy as himself. I say himself, for the commodore, at Lisbon, when ashore, leaving him master of the cabin, when he was sent to, and invited to continue aboard a king's ship, then in the harbour, he begged "he might be allowed to stay where he was; unless they would make him a captain at once, as he was spoiled for any thing else." This gentleman, in whose preservation providence so remarkably interposed, a circumstance never to be forgotten to his family, is the present heir to the title and estate of earl of Inchiquin in Ireland.

As we were the only ship hurt of our fleet, the commodore thought it necessary that the rest should proceed on their station for the remainder of the cruise; especially as our great expectations of a fortune were now again vanished. Wherefore he gave them all the necessaries which they wanted out of his own ship, and also an additional number to each of them, as was thought proper; and they accordingly left us the seventeenth, having put all the prisoners on board other ships, which they met with, going into Lisbon; whither we also bore away to refit, and came over the bar to an anchor that evening.

Early the next morning a boat belonging to the Prince George, which had been before sent ~~in~~ with two hundred prisoners, came along-side of us; and, to the great surprize of Mr. Walker, brought in her one of the managers from England, who gave Mr. Walker a very uncouth welcome into Lisbon, for venturing, as he termed it, their ships against men of war. "Had the treasure, Sir, says Mr. Walker, been a-board, as I expected, your compliment had been otherways; or had we let her escape from us with that treasure on board, what had you then have said?" But if I do not take care to stop myself in time,

time, I shall run into a business which is reserved for another discussion. We shall therefore return to say, that the Glorioso prize came also with us the same day to an anchor, and the Russel man of war, all almost a-breast of each other.——Yet I cannot help mentioning one dispute, among some others, which is material here ; as it rather relates to Mr. Walker's conduct than to any error of accounts. The ransom for the Buen Consejo, having been fixed and agreed on between all the parties, the managers had, without asking Mr. Walker's consent, articulated that he should convoy her safe as far as the Canary Islands. This, when he was informed of it, he absolutely refused to execute ; as an unwarrantable act, by protecting his majesty's enemies. The matter was carried to a great height between the manager and him, and at last brought before Sir Benjamin Keene ; who gave his sentiments entirely on Mr. Walker's side ; and whilst he with great spirit, reprimanded the one, he with equal justice complimented the other : so the contract became void. This was mighty cause of displeasure against Mr. Walker.

As soon as we got into port, we set about refitting, which took us up near ten weeks. We had received vast numbers of shot in our hull below water ; most of which had only lodged in her, and not gone through ; which could not be owing to the weakness of the enemy's powder ; (for wherever a shot touched us above water, it did its due execution) but to the nearness of the resisting medium of the water through which they were to pass, which deadened their force. At this time the prince, now the present king of Portugal, came in a barge on purpose to see the damages we had sustained, and rowed round us and the Glorioso. We gave him a royal salute as he went from us, and received the compliment of his hat.

We will now attend to our three ships at sea, the Prince Frederick, Duke, and Princess Amelia, under the command of captain Dottin, of the Prince Frederick ; who all behaved with great conduct, harmony, and some good fortune. For, in the first place,

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on October the twenty-first, as they lay off Faro, the Prince Frederick's boat, which was separated from us by night in the storm, came aboard with the lieutenant, captain of marines, and all the men safe and in health. Having received the commodore's letters of credit, as before-mentioned, they had regained their liberty by cartel at High-Mount from the Spaniards, and had come to Faro but three days before the arrival of our ships on that coast. And, November the second, seeing a sail, the three ships gave chase, and rising her very fast, they soon came so near her as to fire at her: notwithstanding which, she still kept her wind; but they continuing their fire pretty briskly, she at last bore down to them, and the Prince Frederick brought her to. She was a Dutch ship, in the service of the Spaniards, the Agatha galley of sixteen guns, from La Vera Cruz, having on board seventeen chests of money registered on Spanish account, one box of wrought plate, cochineal, and indigo to a great value, in the whole amount, upwards of twenty thousand pounds. The captains Dottin and Riddle agreed to put the money on board the Duke, and to send the prize under her convoy into Lisbon to the commodore there, whilst they continued their cruise. In hoisting the chests of money over the side, one chest by accident fell over-board; but the Duke and prize arrived safe at Lisbon, to the great pleasure of the commodore, and satisfaction of the manager, who immediately took possession of the money, and sent it to England in the Bedford man of war.

The two other captains continued their cruise with great judgment and harmony, meeting every day a chase of some kind or other, but with no further success: till at last the time of their cruise expiring, and their water and provisions growing short, having put the men to an allowance of both, for some days before, they on the twenty-ninth of November came over the bar of Lisbon, and saluting the commodore brought up to an anchor by his side. The commodore that evening went on board each of them; and, on hearing the circumstances of the cruise, could not be insen-

insensible of some vanity at the good behaviour and seamanship of two so young officers, brought up under his early lessons.

This paternal pride was also, at this time, not a little increased by his meeting with captain Brooks, his former lieutenant in the *Mars* and *Boscawen*, who had been sent for to *Hamburgh* by his friends, and was now commodore of two large *Hamburgh* men of war, on a cruise against the *Turks*. A whimsical awkwardness appeared here in his behaviour, as he did not know how to take place of his former master, or rather sea-parent; and yet thought that, in respect to his country's flag, he ought to assume the precedency over him, as a commander only of private ships of war. But Mr. Walker, with great good humour convinced him, that the command of private ships was given by the same authority as that of king's ships; and that all English ships of war must take place of every other nation whatever.

Mr. Walker at this time received a compliment of an extraordinary kind, for the explanation of which he was obliged to have recourse to his friends, and which we mention for no other purpose but for its oddity. The Spanish captain of the *Glorioso* being now about to return over land to *Spain*, wrote to him his compliments of taking leave, desiring him to send him six of his fire arms and bayonets. Mr. Walker, before he gave any answer, told the affair to the agents *messieurs Mawman* and *Macey*; where was a gentleman lately from *Spain*, who informed them, that the demand was intended as the highest mark of respect which could be shewn; meaning, "That as in battle he himself had proved the merit of those arms, so he desired to continue under their guard, in his present journey." As it was found to be meer matter of form, the Spanish arms being doubtless preferable to our own, the number were sent him.

C H A P. VIII.

The missing of the Havannah fleet ; the great trouble of getting their provisions at Faro ; meeting two Algerine ships ; the story of Mahomet and his son ; the King George returns to Lisbon ; the other ships end their cruise, and sail for England.

THE Havannah fleet being about this time expected home, the commodore made all preparations for the Sea with the greatest haste. Accordingly, on the first day of the year 1747, he made the signal to unmoor, and we set out on the remaining half, or last four months of our cruise.

I must just mention one unhappy step taken in the management of our provisions, which I should not do, did it not concern the relation in which we are engaged. Before we came this last time into Lisbon, the remaining part of the provisions (which as we have beforementioned, had been sent from England) were ordered by the presiding managers round to Faro, there to be taken in by us, tho' our agents knew that at the end of the first four months cruise we were to have put into Lisbon for them. This was done without assigning any reason for it, and without having an opportunity of giving us any intelligence thereof ; and besides the risque in carrying the provisions thither, and loss of time in going for them, it was also an additional expence : for we were now obliged to buy at least a month's extraordinary provisions, as we could not have gone to the destined port with a less quantity. For, being obliged to set forward immediately to Faro, and there detained by various accidents in taking them in, the first sail we met, after coming from thence, was a Dutch galliot, which informed us, " that the Havannah fleet was a few days before arrived safe at Cadiz, and had been separated from their convoy in a gale of wind ; which were only two men of war, one of sixty four guns and the other seventy-four, both so very sickly, that even they

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had in all probability submitted not only to have let some of their fleet been picked up by us, but also themselves worsted in an engagement. Thus, by this one ill-fated accident alone, we escaped the very fleet, which our hopes were set on meeting.

In getting round to Faro, we brought to a Swede on the nineteenth, the *Anna Crestina*, *Andrea Aspitand*, master; who told us he had been, some days before, robbed by an English privateer; which action, like most other bad ones, is not only answerable for its present evil, but involves in its own deserved censure the characters of others, even here of a whole nation. Wherefore, if people would always take a view of the consequences, which may attend the action they are going to commit, the foresight, that would arise more or less in all, would certainly often stop the actor from the commission. Mr. Walker, to wipe off the national scandal, as much as in him lay, supplied the captain to the best of his power with some necessaries: as we were now near our own provisions; and shewed him other civilities to counter-balance, in his mind, the bad opinion he had entertained of our countrymen. Captain Riddle also chased another ship of the same country, the *Stad Wismar*, *Joachim Hacker*, master, which had been plundered in like manner, and from the like description given, in all probability by the same ship. Capt. Riddle, in example of the commodore, treated their distresses with the same good-natured policy.

Before we reached Faro, our ship, the *King George*, sprung her bow-sprit: for repairs are seldom to be depended on in foreign ports—and the commodore knowing that he could not get in there, it being a bar harbour, anchored, on the twenty third, in *Lagos-bay* to repair, and dispatched the *Princess Amelia*, with our new schooner (which we also called the *Prince Edward* tender, in the place of the one which was lost) to bring off the provisions to the rest of the ships. On the twenty-fifth, the *King George* having repaired, weighed anchor again, and we stood off to Faro; when the *Princess Amelia* and the tender coming

ing in sight, a storm arose, and forced back the Prince Edward from the other. This inclemency of the weather continued at this time so perverse to our endeavours of expedition, that our ships could not keep on the coast, to receive the provisions from our tenders, above one day in eight. We had here, among the rest, a tempest of a very extraordinary nature, with rain, such as the like was never known, and some flashes of lightning and loud claps of thunder. The rain fell like a cataract of water, that there was scarce any standing the decks, whilst such a darkness hung around, that the clouds seemed to meet the sea, and we appeared in the regions of water. This lasted not long; for the darkness broke as it were in twain over our heads, and the rain abated, when the clouds fell away on all sides; in the place of this heavy rain, sudden gusts of wind arose, and a great swell came on, but none of our ships received any damage. I must also take notice, that whilst we lay here off Faro, a packet came to the commodore from Lisbon, and another to Mr. Denham of the Duke; which produced a transaction, which we shall mention in its place.

When we, with much difficulty and great loss of time, had got our provisions on board, we hastened to our station; where, after chasing numbers of English, Dutch, Portuguese, and Swedish ships, on the second of March, we fell in with a large sail; which proved to be an Algerine man of war of forty guns, five hundred and fifty men, cruising against the Spaniards and Portuguese. They had been out thirty-six days, without the least success. Their Lieutenant came on board us, of whom the commodore enquired, whether they had any British subjects on board; and found that they had four from Ireland. The commodore detained the lieutenant and boat, and sent aboard the Algerine, insisting upon the men being delivered up, as subjects belonging to his Britannic majesty, with whom the Algerines were always in good peace. The Algerine captain saw himself obliged to consent; but the commodore upon

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further examination finding, that the men spoken of were renegadoes, who had formerly been in the Spanish service, and had voluntarily run over from them to the Moors, and having taken on them the Mahometan religion, were themselves desirous of remaining with them, he left them to their liking, judging them best where they were ; as remembering the truest and shortest character ever given of the people of that nation (which I think is in Mr. Gordon's Geographical Grammar) that *when good, none better ; when bad, none worse*. So he dismissed the Algerine officer.

We must here go back to a very remarkable catastrophe, which happened immediately after our late engagement with the Glorioso ; but as it intervened in the middle of a principal action, we postponed it to this place, where it joins itself more regularly to its further story and conclusion.

About the time the ships were manning at Lisbon, an Algerine Turk came on board, to enter himself as a common man. He had been a slave in Spain ; and having made his escape from thence, contrived this stratagem to get out of the country : the commodore gave leave for his being admitted. Much about the same time, another Turk, in the like circumstances, entered himself on board the Duke ; in which ships they severally lay concealed, never going ashore from the time of their entering on board. The one on board us was an elderly man, of a good form and presence, and was remarkably studious in doing all handy services for the officers ; whose servants very willingly let him do them, as sparing their own trouble. Mr. Walker afterwards, when we were at sea, on some occasion taken notice of the man, thought he observed something in his address and manner more than what commonly belonged to people of low degree. He sent for him to his cabin, and asking him some questions, was answered by him very modestly, and with a great air of politeness and genteel sense of the obligation done him ; in being thus taken notice of ; but he would repeat no part of his history

history more than that of his having been a slave to the Spaniards. Mr. Walker however ordered, that he should dine at the steward's table, and that he should not be continued in offices of servitude, which he imagined him above; and knowing, that there was another Turk on board the Duke, he sent for him to be with him in our ship; as he thought, that the company of a countryman might be an amusement and satisfaction to him on board.

When they were introduced, at the surprize of their first seeing each other, every passion of affection and of joy started in their countenances; every action which ensued was expressive of the heart-felt happiness. They locked themselves in a strict embrace, and overflowing tears and eyes, uplifted in return of gratitude to heaven, were sure ensigns to us of their sincerity and near alliance. The one found a son, and the other his father. To give the separate accounts of each of their escapes from Spain would be to enter on a kind of romance; and as to any part of their stories, before the time of their becoming prisoners to the Spaniards, we could learn nothing distinctly from them; for they both were modest and reserved.

This scene was a great pleasure to most of us, and could not fail of recommending them to our regard and civility. They lived in great love and friendship with each other, till the day of our engagement with the Glorioso: for here they discovered no alliance as before; the father throughout the whole engagement behaving with the greatest boldness and courage, as not to be outdone in either by any other person in the ship; and the son being the only man who shewed any tokens of fear, he having absented himself, and run, struck with terror, into the cock-pit for safety.

The next morning after the engagement, the old father came into the cabin to the commodore, and throwing himself at his feet, with much weeping, demanded from him, that vengeance should be executed on his son, or that he himself might have liberty to put him to death. Mr. Walker told him "that the

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christian religion and the laws forbid him to take that power into his own hands ; and that though the law of arms might, upon regular proof and deliberate judgment, exercise that authority ; yet, as his son was of a strange nation, and not bound to fight for our country as the natives of it, humanity and mercy interposed, and stopped such a strict execution of the law." At this the old man seemed much to regret the tender pity of the commodore, which kept alive his shame ; he retired dissatisfied, and would never speak to his son, or allow him to come into his presence, till the very last day of their departure from the ship.

Some hours after we had dismissed the Algerine, Mahomet (for such was the father's name) again took an opportunity of throwing himself at the commodore's feet, and told him, " he wished that the British subjects had been brought aboard ; for then, says he, in return of four men, I could have had the assurance to have asked you for my liberty." This greatly affected the commodore, as he would very gladly have granted it to him ; but in the stricter attention to the other business, he had never once thought of him. However, he promised him, that he would take care to send him and his son to England, and from thence at his own expence, have them carried to their own country. " Oh, sir, (replies Mahomet) the cup of your goodness will be mixed with too much bitterness, if he be permitted to accompany me. Let him range the earth in exile from that country which must be dishonoured by his first foot-step on its sands." Mr. Walker here had time of talking to him, how much nobler the virtues rise which constitute forgiveness, than they which satisfy revenge. " Yes, (says the Turk) our religion teaches forgiveness of an injury done to ourselves ; but an injury done to our country, whereby the criminal dishonours the race of the prophet, ought not to be allowed to plead for any private pity, but suffer the laws of public condemnation : else the exalted sons of Mahomet may fall into a degeneracy of blood, and

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lose their rank on earth." The commodore still pressed the argument, "that this accusation did not hold against the young man, as he was not fighting for his country; and that though the English were his friends, yet they were a different people and christians." "But (replies the father) he fought against his enemies, and against the common enemy of mankind, slavery; and he who fights against this fights for his country." Mr. Walker here gave up the argument; but ordered in the young man, and endeavoured to introduce him to his father for a reconciliation. The old one turned from him and wept. "At last, says he, addressing only the commodore, I have promised you, not to kill him in your ship, and he shall live whilst he is your's." But to some of us who interfered in pressing the reconciliation, and spoke largely of christian forgiveness, he said, "You may make a christian, if you please, of my son. Try him, he'll become one." We could not help laughing at the bad compliment he paid us at the conclusion; though his meaning was certainly no other, than that a bad man in any one circumstance of acting, is to be supposed the most capable of doing other acts of meanness, as most apostacies in general are.

Four days after this, we met with another large ship; which, when we came up with her, proved an Algerine admiral of fifty guns. Here a new and unexpected opportunity again offered for Mahomet's release. Upon coming so near to the ship as to discover of a certainty what she was, and before we spoke to her, the commodore again called Mahomet and his son to him, and told the father, "that if he promised to forgive his son, he would now put them both aboard a ship of their own country: but if he continued to refuse such promise, he would put the son only aboard, or discover to the rest of his countrymen the whole affair, and the nature of his fault, thereby to take the power of punishment out of his hands." This seemed to sting the old man deeper than any thing preceding. The sense of his family-

shame being divulged brought blushes in his face, one succeeding another in a quick transition to red from paleness. He then promised, in his customary solemnity, "that provided the affair was kept secret from his countrymen, he would forgive him, and pray to his prophet to shed a better influence on him for the future." They then embraced, the young man all along behaving with great concern and modesty, no other ways pretending to an excuse, than that the fight was a new manner to him. The old father then prayed for the commodore, and all who depended on him, and promised, "that if ever he met him in his country, he would tell the heavens his obligation."

After a strict enquiry was made in the other ship, whether there were any British subjects on board, and none any ways discovered, the commodore sent Mahomet and his son aboard. When the officer returned, who attended them, he told us, "that the moment the old man went aboard, he was known by the admiral, who took him in his arms, and paid him great signs of compliment," by which we judged, that he had been a person of greater rank and distinction than his modesty or prudence thought fit to discover to us. The Algerine admiral gave us the highest salute of his guns, which we returned, and so parted.

On the first of February, we lost sight of the Duke, and made several false fires all night, none of which or any other of our signals were answered, on that or the succeeding days: but on the eighth, we met a Dutch ship which came from Lisbon, and informed us that the Duke was got in there, before he sailed. This account made us easy in regard to the safety of the ship; but for the reason of his going from us, we were still in the dark.

Though in this last part of our cruise we met not with the success we had been accustomed to hope for, yet we had no cause to lament our particular ill luck in competition with the better fortune of others; for of several king's ships and letters of marque, which

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we chased and came up with, not one as we could learn had within this time met with any prize. The Havannah fleet was all we could have expected; and that we missed by our being detained on account of the provisions sent to Faro, as beforementioned.

The time now came, when the cruises of the other ships were expired, but not of the King George; for, as we had been ten weeks in harbour on account of our late repairing, that time could not be reckoned as part of the eight months, which were to be run out at sea. Wherefore the commodore resolved to send the other ships home; and though determined himself to spin out the remainder of his cruise to the last, yet for the present he was not able to keep the seas. His bowsprit, which was repaired at Lagosbay, was again sprung, and we wanted an entire new main-mast; so that the ship was in great distress: wherefore, he found himself obliged to make once more for Lisbon to repair, contrary to his own inclinations, and the positive directions of the letter sent to him at Faro; which expressly forbid him on any account whatever to put in there any more; the wind and weather not permitting him to make for any other port. As we were in such distress, he made the other ships attend him to within four leagues of the rock of Lisbon, and then proceed on their way home to England.

The day before they parted us, the commodore went on board each ship, and returned thanks to the officers and men for their good behaviour in general. The return on the other side in their compliments of taking leave, had a natural sincerity in it above the common tokens of civility; which I shall not attempt to describe. March the 25th the ships saluted us, and set sail for England. We went into Lisbon.

In their way home, the Prince Frederick on the 27th fell in with his majesty's ships the Eagle, captain (now admiral) Rodney, and the Windsor, captain Bateman; who had been chased two days before by six large sail of Spanish men of war. Thus, if we did not succeed to our wishes in our late cruise,

we were still fortunate beyond our knowledge, in escaping so near a danger. And the Princess Amelia took a Dutchman, which she had reasons to believe a prize, and therefore brought her into England. But she was afterwards on a trial at law, set at large at her own costs. The two ships reached England about the tenth of April, 1748. The Prince George had been before sent home with our prize, the Nympha.

CHAP. IX.

Some mismanagement of affairs relating to the fleet. The former agents seize the ship King George. Most of the men go into foreign services. Some reflections thereon. An offer of a command from the court of Portugal to Mr. Walker. Mr. Walker's return to England in the Lisbon packet, and his preserving the same.

WHEN the commodore got to Lisbon, he found there some alterations. Messrs. Mawman and Macey having drawn on the managers for the money advanced by them, their bills had been protested at London to a very considerable amount, occasioned by some dispute arising between the managers at home and them; and the manager whom we had left at Lisbon was gone to England in the Duke, captain Denham, he having ordered him to wait for him for that purpose at a certain station, by his letters sent to him at Faro, as we have before-mentioned; the late agents had arrested or attached the Buen Consejo in the port of Lisbon, in a part of payment of themselves, as the only remedy in their power. To frustrate any like designs in them in regard to the rest of the fleet was the reason of the said then residing manager sending the letter to the commodore at Faro; forbidding him to return to Lisbon on any account whatever: thus we see also, that sending round the provisions to Faro was not the act only of giddy play or want of skill. A new agent, one Mr.

Mr. Atley, had been appointed ready to succeed into the place of the former, and every thing relating to our affairs was in confusion. But the commodore, willing to keep matters together as well as he could, as also to perform the remainder of his cruise, consulted with his new agent, Mr. Atley, who took advice of his lawyer, whether, if he refitted his ship, it could be seized on the same account by the said agents ; and being informed that he could not, for that no step whatever could be taken thereto, without previous notice to the party, sufficient to contest such claim, Mr. Atley advanced money on account of the managers, and compleated her for the sea. These repairs took about eight weeks, when the former agents, who had all this while judiciously lain quiet, seized also the King George by a stratagem of giving notice of the seizure to the commodore, in a paper thrust into his hand as a petition (when he was in a hurry of business) and made an absolute sale of her, by the form of public notice being read in the open streets, as the law for the sake of security directs : but which good intent is too often, as well as the present case, subverted in the practice, by reading the notice at secret opportunity, before two or three witnesses brought with them on purpose as evidences thereof. By this stroke the commodore found his ship all at once slipped away from under him, the cruise frustrated, and all his men adrift in a foreign country, without money, no care had, or provision made for them, open mouthed in their abuses against the managers, and many of them scarcely civil in their demands against him, as some of them now began to include him in the phrase of, *All rogues alike*.

If malicious report has laid the blame on Mr. Walker of this ship being seized and arrested from the managers, the truth of the fact here told I hope shews him intirely free of the charge ; as it was not only his intent to have secured her to his managers, (whose friend sincerely he was) but had been more for his fame to have returned home successful in
his

his own ship. If Messrs. Mawman and Macey were to blame, it was not Mr. Walker's place to have commenced or taken on him any quarrel with them, who could even have arrested him for the whole debt ; and which nothing hindered them from doing, but their particular regard for him. Mr. Walker applied to Mr. Atley chiefly in behalf of the men, for money to carry them and himself home ; but he now refused to advance any more, and of his own accord summoned the gentlemen of the factory together to raise a subscription for sending home their distressed countrymen. Mr. Walker could not but resent this proceeding as an affront on the managers, and attended the meeting ; when the gentlemen wisely distinguished that the present subjects of their consideration were all men of acquired fortune, and could not justly be set in the light of wanting charity. Mr. Atley also could not but understand some observations made by the company on the present proposal as a rebuke to his conduct, but endeavoured to excuse himself by still an higher affront on the managers, " that he was afraid to advance any more money to them, lest he should be served as the late agents were." Here Mr. Walker, who was still an advocate for his managers, could not help reprimanding him for his presumption, " as he said, he could speak from nothing else, he not having experienced any ill from them." When a gentleman of the factory then there, Mr. Horne, generously stood up and made an offer to Mr. Walker of any money, which he might have occasion for his own credit, which friendship he to this day continues, Mr. Walker made use of his beneficence, and took up several sums, which he distributed among some of the officers and men who were willing of returning home, to pay their passages to England, taken their receipts for the same. All which money Mr. Walker has since answered on his own account, and the men's receipts are part of his present disputed accounts with the managers. But notwithstanding his utmost endeavours and perswasion (as he now had

had no other power) many of them went in foreign services, disgusted at their own. Several staid in Portugal, but most went to Spain; some of whom set up a woollen manufactory there, to which business they had been bred; and others went into the King's yards, to work at building and rigging ships. And one man in particular, as Mr. Walker has been credibly informed, had an high salary fixt on him for life, for his peculiar knowledge in this art and business.

It is very lamentable to see such numbers of our handicraft men employed in foreign states, especially that of Spain; to which I have been an eye-witness, where so large encouragements are offered as are sufficient to draw over all our people who have taken any umbrage, or met any misfortune in their own country. And it is wonderful, some legislative care is not taken in regard to this loss to our country. In the present instance, certainly all proprietors of privateers ought to give bond, or be answerable to the public for the return of the hands taken out of the kingdom, the common casualties excepted: for there is greater danger in this light from the desertion of men out of privateers, than in general out of king's ships; because many of the former are broken tradesmen, or ruined handicrafts, who fly from their homes for debt, and hope to win fortune to them again by making a bold stroke at her; who, if seduced away, or left destitute among our enemies, carry their trades and arts with them.

The common reason given abroad by our countrymen themselves for their deserting their mother-country, is the ill policy of our government or laws, in allowing goals and prisons to be the equal punishment of debtors, as of felons, thieves, and perjurers, contrary to the better practice of almost every other country in the world. By which means not only numbers fly away for fear of perpetual bondage in their boasted land of liberty, but also many bankrupts, who are denied their certificates at the will of, perhaps, one angry creditor, and others who take the
benefit

benefit of the acts of insolvency ; both of whom, after giving up their all they have in the world, are further impeded from setting up any business in their own country, by the impolitic scrupulousness or needless conscience of the law, in making their future effects liable to their former creditors: for if they, having nothing of their own, must set up again in credit, who will trust them with effects, which, before they can be turned into profit, are liable to be instantaneously seized for the debts due to another? I own myself obliged for this argument to a pamphlet lately published, intitled, *Observations on the present State of Bankrupts, in a Letter to a Member of Parliament*, and well worthy the Attention of the legislature.

The succeeding matter is another instance of the watchful attention, which foreign nations lend to the merit of our countrymen, and shews how ready they are to offer them encouragement.

We have taken notice that Mr. Walker was known to the court of Portugal. Being now left alone to shift for himself, as the affair was public over the whole place, and is at this day better known there than in any part of Great-Britain, a gentleman of the court paid him a visit one morning, and proposed to him, as an offer from the king, the command of one of his majesty's ships of war, with assurances of his said majesty's further notice and favour. Mr. Walker, not a little surprized at the proposal, only asked two days to consider of it. The step he took for his direction in this affair, was to go to Sir Benjamin Keene; and candidly laying open the whole to him, he asked his advice how to rule his conduct in regard to it. His excellency, with the greatest politeness, yet zeal for his country, addressed Mr. Walker on the subject to this purpose.—“ Sir, says he, I see by your asking my advice, that your inclination leans towards the acceptance, else you yourself could have given a direct answer to the proposal. It is true, the offer is great, and must proceed from a particular good opinion his Portuguese majesty has of your merits.

rits. His future favours may constantly attend your deserts, and we may with reason suppose you in time, perhaps, admiral of his fleet. But then, Sir, you are to consider, that Portugal is not your country, and you may be brought into a desperate dilemma, by engaging yourself to it so essentially ; for though the countries be now in friendship with each other, who knows, as the event of all things is in the hands of providence, how soon they may be at variance ? Then can you fight against your own country ? or how can you in honour desert the prince whose bounty and favours, gratitude may lay on you as bonds of obligation ? But besides all this, there is, Sir, a deeper consideration. We will suppose, that there is no likelihood of a war in your time between the different countries ; or we will suppose, that you enter into this service under the proviso of being free to desert it, in case of such a rupture ; where certainly every reasonable system will allow, that your honour would engage you first to your own country ; yet can you conceive, that you can command a ship or a fleet in this country, and that other people will not learn from your knowledge, and grow experienced under your practice ? Then consider, (as observation, when once set in a right path, may find its way to knowledge and perfection) how you may be an instrument of teaching another nation to be a competitor to your own, and that in its greatest and most peculiar art of war, and power of defence : What effusion of blood may in future ages proceed from so single a first cause ! Above all this, there is a perpetual restlessness in a man's breast, when he is in the service of any foreign power : for when we are not with our country, we cannot help fearing that we are against it : the love of our country is an instinct, politically implanted by heaven within our natures. It is true, his Britannic majesty in his great indulgence has often given leave to his subjects to go into the service of other powers in peace, or in alliance with him : but under the reproof of better wisdom, I think it for the above reason a very impolitic practice.

tice. And in the present case, there is one very particular objection. Your appearance in the Portuguese service may give umbrage to another power now in peace with us; I mean the Algerines, who are the declared enemies of the Portuguese, and who, from a knowledge they have gained of you by so long a cruise in those parts, and by your having stopped so many of their ships, may, as they are a people quick in conceiving offence, resent to our court at home, "that a British subject should take a command from their enemies against them." Was your situation, Sir, in your own country uneasy to you, was your fortune low, or had your country used you with any cruelty or slight of your merits, you might have reasons to wish for a change. None of these, Sir, I find is the case: they are only wishes of preferment that charm your attention; and if you will trust in my interest, you shall not long go unnoticed by your country."

The argument, which preceded the last genteel promise, had sufficiently fixed Mr. Walker's resolution. And when the gentleman paid his second visit for Mr. Walker's answer; the proposal offered, was, with great acknowledgments of the compliment, rejected. Whether Sir Benjamin Keene ever did write home to his friends in recommendations of Mr. Walker, we cannot presume to say; but if he did, the other never heard of it. Which however, as he never made any applications, might have never reached his knowledge.

At this time also Mr. Walker had intelligence of ill news from home, in the exact account of the loss of our other prize the *Nympha*, who had been sent to England under convoy of his majesty's ship the *Bedford*, commodore Townshend; and who, after she had arrived safe at Portsmouth, in coming round from thence to London, lost sight of her convoy in the night, and thinking that she had shot a-head, shortened sail to wait for their coming up; whereas her convoy was a-head of her. After laying some hours under their mizen and foresail, they to their great surprise

surprize saw breakers under their lee ; and notwithstanding all diligence was used to get her double reefed top-sail set, she was in the midst of the breakers before they could shoot her clear, and there was stranded. At day-break they found themselves under the cliffs of Beachy Head : The ship was insured for upwards of an hundred and three thousand pounds ; and about thirty-five thousand pounds of her effects and cargo were saved to the under-writers, by the fidelity and activity of one of the managers, who immediately went down to the wreck. But it was said, that there was a deficiency or loss of a large sum in the payment of the money insured, by the failure of some of the under-writers.

We here also met with the French merchant, whom we saw at the inn at Morlaix, and who had introduced Mr. Walker to the gentleman to buy the vessel to transport us to England. He had failed in his trade in France, and was going with his wife and family to settle in the West-Indies ; but the ship, in which he was a passenger, being met by an English privateer, was taken : he was brought in with her hither, and was in extream poverty. Mr. Walker made a collection of money for him amongst his friends ; who were very liberal on the occasion, and set him up in necessaries, so as to enable him to proceed to the West-Indies, without returning back a petitioner to France. He told us a most piteous story, relating to his affairs ; but at one circumstance we could not help smiling, tho' a scene of some horror. Of all the poor man's misfortunes, his wife was the greatest. The matrimonial power was not divided in equal shares betwixt them : she, good woman, assumed the greater part both in judgment, command, and execution ; whilst again every thought and act of her's submitted to a ruling passion she had for a young child in her arms. This was still more irksome to him under authority ; as times of eating, drinking, study, amusement, and rest were interrupted by the under-duties attendant thereon, which fell to his share. In giving us a description of the engagement

gement of the ship, in which he was taken (as she had made an obstinate resistance) he told us that his wife would not consent to his deserting her side the whole time of the fight, but kept him with her in the cock-pit; where she sat weeping and wailing over her dear foundling, when a ball coming in at the side of the ship, on a sudden struck the child out of her arms, and dashed it to pieces without doing the least hurt to her, or injuring any other person. The man, in describing the scene, and the surprize and looks of his wife at the loss of the child, could not help introducing an expressive action of humour, that forced us to laugh at the tragedy, as at blunders in the most serious scenes. How far the relation may be depended on as a truth, must be left to what credit the reader will give the French gentleman: he scarcely could have invented it; nor had he need of any exaggeration by way of affecting pity.

Mr Walker's presence being no longer needed at Lisbon, he set sail for England in the packet, with several of his officers, and about forty common men, who would not desert him to the very last; nor act in anything but by his direction. There was certainly a Providence in this: for as the packet came out by the rock of Lisbon, we saw at some distance a long built vessel of twenty guns, which we could discover full of men, and which we at first imagined a Spanish barquo-longo. The captain of the packet was a very old gentleman, who was in the greatest consternation imaginable, and thought it most advisable to fly from them, in hopes that we might escape them in the night. This appeared contrary to the judgment of Mr. Walker, who saw by her over-hauling us so fast, that she would be up with us before night, when some fatal accident might happen by the blunder of the enemy in the night, as by our running from them they would be more resolute in attacking us: which accident there was a probability of avoiding, by encountering them by daylight; especially as the packet had sixteen guns, and as his additional hands were a strength to be depended on. Some
of

of our men having dropped an expression, "that if their captain had the command he would beat the long Spaniard out of the sea," two English merchants who were on board and had a great property in the ship, went to the captain of their own accord, and begged of him, that he would leave the whole direction of their present distressed affairs to the conduct and experience of Mr. Walker, as an officer more versed in engagements of the kind. The old gentleman very readily consented, and Mr. Walker took on himself the character of first lieutenant. We had not made long preparation before we discovered the ship to be an Algerine. This was an enemy no less to be dreaded: for though we were at peace with them, yet as the packet had Portuguese property on board, they would have seized every shilling of money (which was a very considerable sum) and had carried us to Algiers; and though we and the packet might afterwards have been delivered up, the affair might have been a matter of litigation, and brought on very sad consequences to our disfavour.

As soon as Mr. Walker was assured of his enemy being other than was first imagined, he altered his design; and, desiring the captain to retire to his own apartment, and there to take on him as much state as possible, when the Algerine officer should come on board, he ordered all his own officers and men, with the other sailors on board, to quarters, and the marines to their small arms. He ordered also his drums to beat to arms, and his band of music (all whom he had with him) to strike up, when they came within the hearing of the enemy; and ordering also a gun to be fired, we bore down directly on them with our ensign, jack, and pennant flying. When we came within hailing, Mr. Walker ordered them to hoist out their boat, and send on board a lieutenant. They continued a long time in suspense, and returned no answer, apparently at a loss what to make of us, seeming other to them than they expected. He again hailed them, "that if they did not send their boat with an officer on board, he would sink them." They then

then asked, " what we were ?" He answered, " a king's ship of war." Upon which they immediately hoisted out their boat, and an officer came on board. The officer was conducted to the captain, who maintained his dignity extremely well, and asking the proper questions, dismissed him. He then returned aboard his own ship; but Mr. Walker immediately hailed them, " not to make sail, till he gave orders." This could not but employ their attention from a more minute scrutiny, and confirm them in the opinion of our being a king's ship, had the lieutenant or attending boat seen any thing to create a suspicion to the contrary, as it shewed us in no great hurry of leaving them. Accordingly he soon gave the order, and they went off, saluting us with five guns, which we returned with three; they one more for thanks.

This was the last gun Mr. Walker heard fired all that war, or indeed ever since at sea. How usefully to his country he might have been employed in the present, the reader, otherways unacquainted with him, may, we hope, from those past scenes, from some judgment, which his friends and they who are knowing of him, can better tell; but as we are now come to the last scene of the last act of the present work, we will make haste to drop the curtain; for the sword having performed its part, the play ought certainly to be done. Thus in the year 1748 Mr. Walker returned to England, preserving the packet, which did him the kind office of landing him in his own country. This very packet was taken the year following by an Algerine, who laid wait for her, and was carried into Algiers: By which all the property in her, to a very considerable amount, was irrecoverably lost to the owners. The packet and men were, indeed, afterwards restored; but not without much state altercation, in which great time was lost.

We have now brought Mr. Walker back to land, to the same place from whence we launched him on our detail, with design to set his abilities to public view, and shew, that he has been so long laid-by, through no defect in them: for I cannot but look on
him

him as a sound and good ship, shut up in dock : and therefore, we have been more particular in shewing him in several scenes, which even deviated from the transaction of the sea. In which we hope to meet excuse ; we having had a particular reason for so doing ; as by some misrepresentations of those very actions by common fame, his behaviour in them has been unjustly and with ill-nature reported. The reasons of his inforced inactivity are a distinct subject of a more private nature, into which I am by no means desirous of entering ; unless such justification of him, in private life also, may be hereafter thought necessary or asked by the public : it is a matter of which even he himself speaks with the greatest reluctance. Pity it is ! that where there is so little fault on one side, the evil machinations of designing men, who from various principles and from variety of purposes often get between friends, and set them at variance, should conjure up to the vision of jealousy any imaginary charges against him ; for he has been all his life abhorring of every mean or bad revenge ; though in his restrained circumstances, he has been often obliged to yield his ear to the advice he never followed, and which he from his soul despised. I will be particular in mentioning the evil instigator or genius of ill that changed the paradise of his life into the fallen state, in which he has so long remained ; but in which it is impossible for his worst enemies to make him miserable, as he never was seen through the whole course of it to be a single moment out of temper at his fate. The wicked author I mean is Mr. Goddard, the aforesaid agent for the people. A powerful man, as of large fortune ! but I fear not to provoke him ; as I have truths to oppose to every attempt of his resentment. For Mr. Walker never quarrelled with his managers, till a dispute arose in their accounts, on the large sums he had advanced to his officers and men for their use ; but was for many years after his arrival in England in their highest esteem. It certainly shews our want of sense to be induced by the artifices of others from our own reason and better knowledge of men

men and things; as it originally was want of virtue to be imposed on by the insinuation of the first tempter to vice! For Mr. Walker, immediately upon his arrival, applied himself to works of greater importance, the *General British Fishery*; and which he has to this day more at heart than any other business, even of conquest. I mean not the British Herring fishery: tho' in that he was so far engaged, as to propose a plan for it to the society, taken from the present practice of the Dutch in the like branch of trade and business, and even went to Holland on purpose to make himself more skilled in a knowledge of it; but on his return home, found Party contending for a majority in it, and Inexperience presiding at the board, fond of her own thoughts: so that he declined being concerned therein, and its success proves his foresight, and must confess that his judgment was the better rule to have been followed. The fishery I mean is the great treasure, which also annually returns to the borders of these kingdoms, but has not yet found the way of being brought a-shore, the cod, tusk, and ling fishery. In prosecuting of which he made a voyage from Norway all round the coast of Scotland, and at his own expence has taken charts and maps of all the soundings and every bank of that long tract of shore; and having purchased several ships, actually begun the work, to the establishment of many hundred of families in that country; who now enjoy from his pains and invention a happy maintenance, in a work encreasing every hour in value to his country. How far his country may pursue the advantage already sprung for her, and the activity of his mind of use to her in peace as well as war, I leave to the political providence of these countries to rule and determine. It is certain, that in this undertaking the first expences, which all new works necessarily demand, had employed the greater part of his fortune, before the returns could supply the deficiencies made in it: which accident must not even be charged to any rashness of conduct in him, but to a belief that his fortune was greater in the hands of his agents, by
his

his aforesaid advance to the officers and men, than in account it is allowed to be. To these we may add some other losses in trade. Yet, to prove the merit of his plan, and good design for his country, he still enjoys the blessing of his own invention, with the continuance of the favours of his friends; his chief dependance being now owing to the friendship of a worthy gentleman, his name-sake, no relation, and in a foreign capacity to sea-affairs; who has provided him a ship in this very trade, and allows him a profit for his support. In the more general direction of which trade, if ever it be thought of merit deserving to be more publicly extended, — as nothing would return the public more recompence or reward, — he certainly has the first right of asking to be employed. But this is a plan, which with his remarks and observations taken of the sea-coast, is sufficient, and may be worthy of a volume to itself.

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